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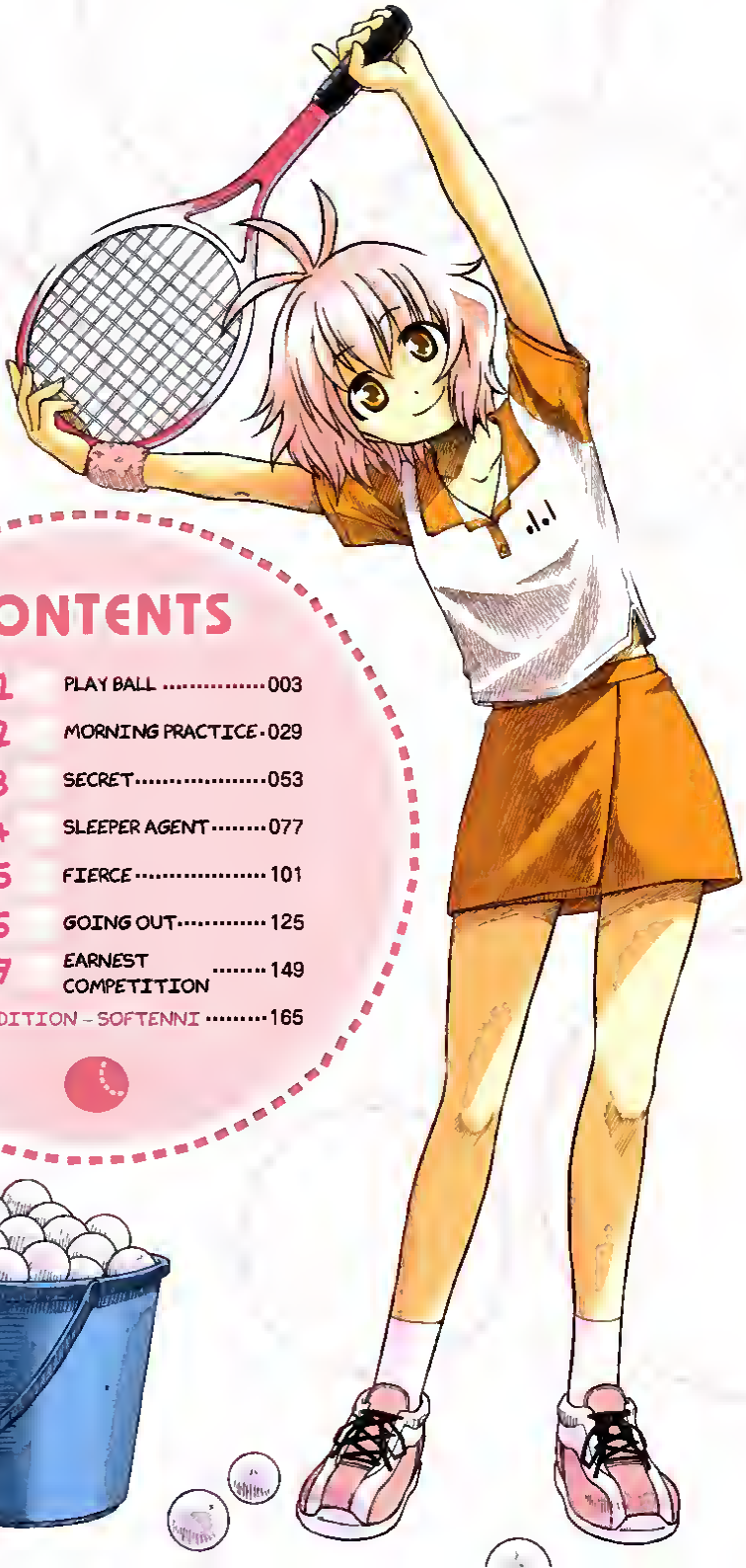

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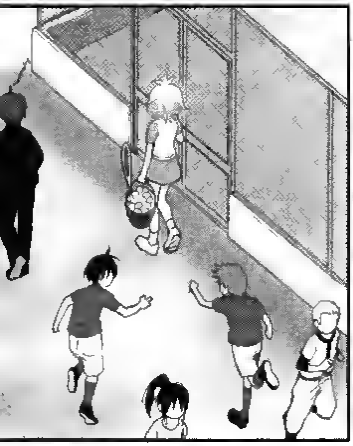
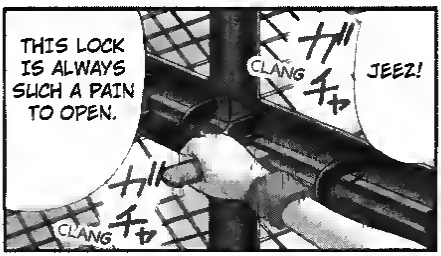


I'M THE FIRST ONE HERE!
♪
AW YEAH!
キィィ…
CREAK


THIS LOCK IS ALWAYS SUCH A PAIN TO OPEN.
CLANG
JEEZ!
CLANG

CLANG
AH!
GOT IT...

SOFTENNI

第1ゲーム プレイボール

GAME 1 PLAY BALL

YOICHI TAKAHASHI PRESENTS

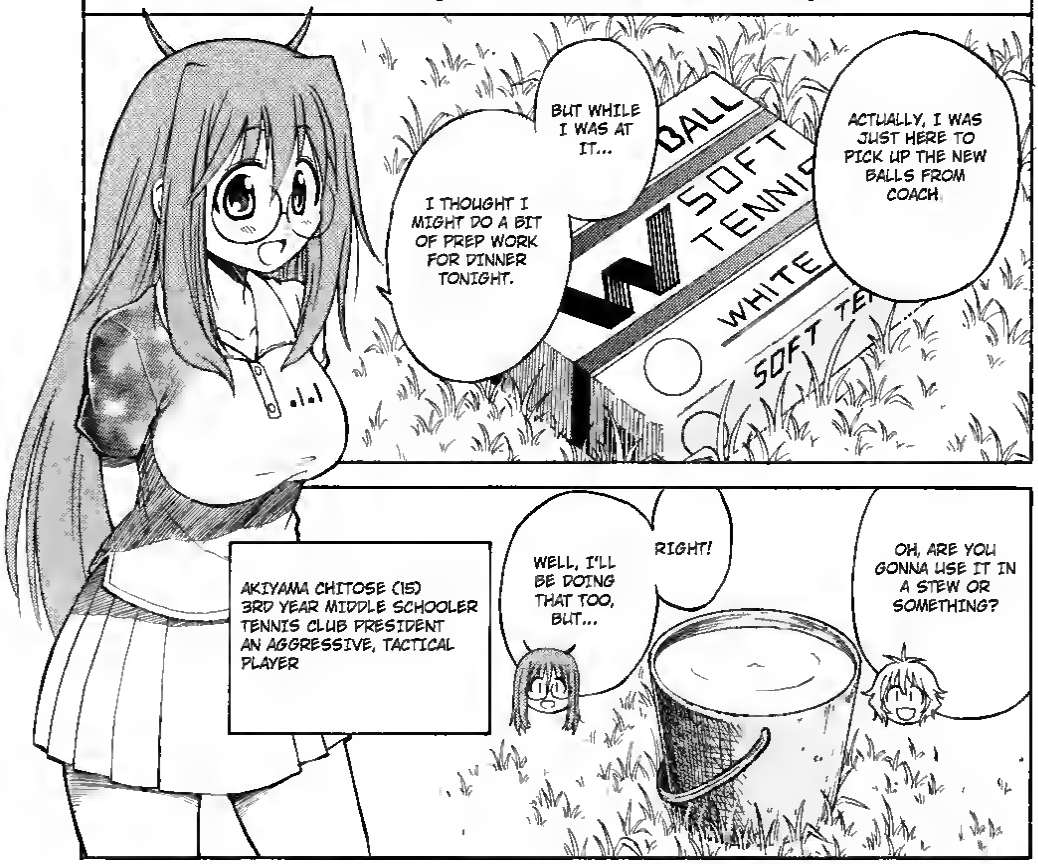
NATURAL TALENT
TUNK
I'LL DO SOME SPECIAL TRAINING BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE GETS HERE.
EHEH HEH!
TIME TO BREAK OUT MY MAD SKILLS!
DAH...
WHOA WHOA..
DUNK BADUNK
WAH!
HARUKAZE ASUNA (AGE 14) 2ND YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOLER A GIRL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH STRAWBERRY MILK.
ASUNA IS CURRENTLY ...
...BREAKING OUT HER MAD SKILLS AT BEING A DITZ!!
WHOA!
SQUISH

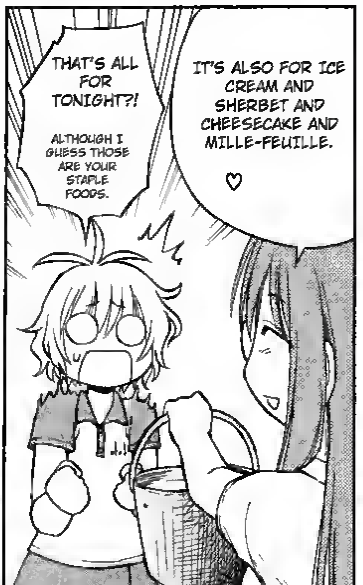
GIRLS WHO DON'T QUITE MESH
HEY, ASUNA! ♪
AWW...
NO FAIR TRAINING ON YOUR OWN!!
LET ME JOIN IN TOO!
SAWANATSU KOTONE (14) 2ND YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOLER SHE LOOKS UP TO KING KAZU.
THEN WHAT'S WITH THESE BALLS DUMPED ALL OVER THE PLACE?
HUH?
NO...
NOTHING YET...
SOME SORT OF SACRED RITUAL BEFORE PRACTICE?
OOH OOH
YOU'VE USED THIS MANY BALLS ALREADY?
KOTONE-CHAN.
WHAT WERE YOU PRACTICING?
YOUR SERVE? HITTING THE BALL AGAINST THE WALL?

THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS
!?
YOUR OPPONENT WILL DO THIS AND THAT TO MESS YOU UP AND KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR STRIDE.
BUT...!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN WE'RE IN A MATCH?
AS YOUR PARTNER, I FIND IT SOMEWHAT PATHETIC
OH, SO THAT'S IT.
YOU KNOW, ASUNA, YOU KIND OF LACK THE PROPER INTENSITY.
AND THAT...
THEY'LL TRY THIS...
SO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "AFTER THAT"?
SO WHAT COMES AFTER THAT...?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?
?
どきBADUM
どきBADUM
AND WHY IS YOUR FACE ALL RED?
TO MESS ME UP...?!

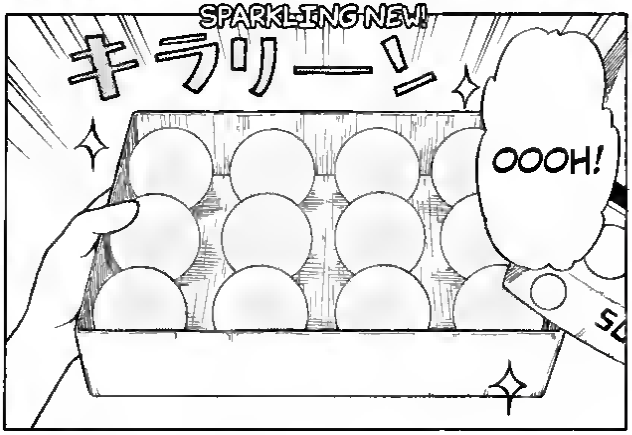
ON THE FARM...
AH!
IT'S HEADING TOWARD THE FARM.
PSHEW
POK
HI-YAH!
!!!
TUNK
?
OH MY, THIS IS...
HUH? WHAT, YOU ASK?
I'M MILKING THE COW. CAN'T YOU TELL?
HERE'S YOUR BALL
E?
BUT WHY?!
CHITOSE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
... WAIT.
WHAT?!
EXCUSE ME!
COULD YOU GET THAT BALL FOR...

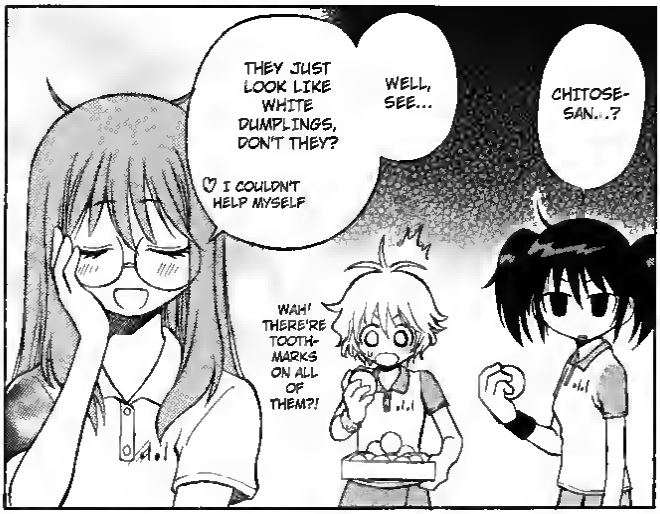
THE TRUTH BEHIND MATTERS

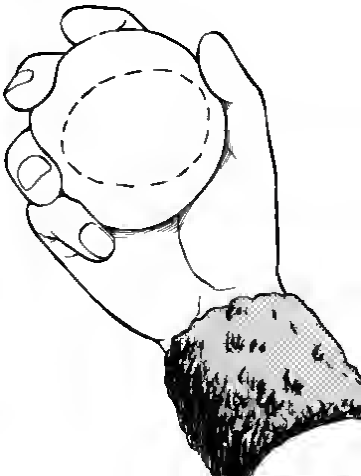

I THOUGHT I MIGHT DO A BIT OF PREP WORK FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
BUT WHILE I WAS AT IT...
ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST HERE TO PICK UP THE NEW BALLS FROM COACH.
BALL
SOFT TENNIS
WHITE
AKIYAMA CHITOSE (15)
3RD YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOLER
TENNIS CLUB PRESIDENT
AN AGGRESSIVE, TACTICAL PLAYER
WELL, I'LL BE DOING THAT TOO, BUT...
RIGHT!
OH, ARE YOU GONNA USE IT IN A STEW OR SOMETHING?


THAT'S ALL FOR TONIGHT?!
ALTHOUGH I GUESS THOSE ARE YOUR STAPLE FOODS.
IT'S ALSO FOR ICE CREAM AND SHERBET AND CHEESECAKE AND MILLE-FEUILLE.
♡

ENGRAVED MARKS




THEY JUST LOOK LIKE WHITE DUMPLINGS, DON'T THEY?
♡ I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
WELL, SEE...
CHITOSE-SAN..?
WAH! THERE'RE TOOTH-MARKS ON ALL OF THEM?!



...IN PREPARATION FOR THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT...
...I WILL NOW ANNOUNCE OUR SPECIAL TRAINING REGIMEN...
AS PRESIDENT OF THE SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFT TENNIS CLUB...

WELL, WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE ACTUALLY TRY IT.
YOU SURE THIS'LL BE ALL RIGHT, CHITOSE-SAN?
WHOA! THERE'S REALLY A LOT OF TOUGH STUFF IN HERE.

I CAME UP WITH THIS IN THE HOPES TO PUSH OUR LIMITS.
WE HAVE ABOUT TWO MONTHS UNTIL THE NEXT TOURNAMENT.
HERE, TAKE THIS.

HEH HEH, JUST WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!
CHITOSE-SAN...
...

...I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY REGRETS.
SINCE THIS IS MY LAST TOURNAMENT...
I'M ALREADY IN THIRD YEAR, YOU KNOW.
BUT FOR ME, PERSONALLY...

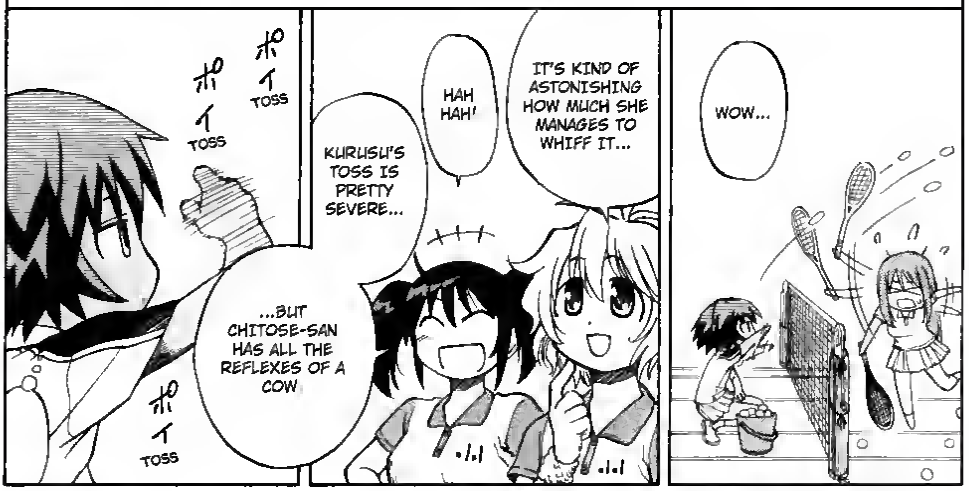
I'LL BUILD UP THE ENDURANCE TO KEEP RUNNING UNTIL THE END
THEN I'LL JOG A WHOLE LOT.
I'M GOING TO HAVE A NEW SPECIAL TECHNIQUE THAT WILL SHOCK EVERYONE!!
BY THE TIME THE NEXT TOURNAMENT COMES AROUND...
OKAY, IT'S UP TO ME ..
...TO TRY MY HARDEST TO KEEP PACE WITH YOU TWO!
IT LOOKS LIKE MY WORRIES WERE UNFOUNDED.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER THEY'D GO ALONG WITH THIS.
GOOD.
UM, CHITOSE-SAN, HOW ABOUT YOU START BY AIMING TO ACTUALLY WIN A SINGLE MATCH.
I'LL DO IT! I WILL!!
AND MY GOAL IS...
...MY MUCH-COVETED FIRST TOURNAMENT VICTORY!!!

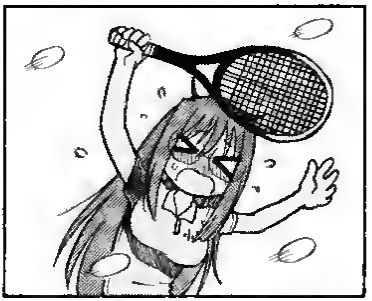
THE GIRL WHO CAME LATE
HEY,
YOU'RE LATE, FRESHMAN BRAT.
WHAT'S THAT "YOO HOO" FOR?
AH, IT'S KURUSU-CHAN.
YOO HOO.
...
TRY NOT TO FAINT WHEN YOU SEE HOW HARDCORE IT IS.
WHAT?
OH, KURUSU-CHAN! TAKE THIS.
SCUFF
FUYUKAWA KURUSU (13) FIRST YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOLER THE MYSTERIOUS ROOKIE
IT'S THE PRACTICE REGIMEN CHITOSE MADE.
SCUFF
CHITOSE-SAN, HANG IN THERE!!
!!
FUH...
WHAT ON EARTH DOES SHE HAVE ON THERE...?!
?
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
HM?
YOU MADE ONE TOO, KURUSU-CHAN?
...
SHFF

THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS 2

UWAH ...
TAKE CARE OF ME, OKAY.
KURUSU-CHAN SHOWS NO MERCY...
THIS'LL BE TOUGH FOR CHITOSE-SAN.
KEEP ON WORKING HER UNTIL SHE REACHES HER LIMIT.
KURUSU, YOU'RE WITH CHITOSE-SAN.
WELL, LET'S GET RIGHT TO PRACTICE.
I'LL BE DOING IT WITH ASUNA.
AND UNTIL SHE REACHES HER LIMIT...
SO, SHE'LL DO LIKE KOTONE SAID...
CH-CHITOSE-SAN WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT!!
HA HA HA!
EVEN KURUSU WON'T GO THAT FAR.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING
AH!
GASP!
I'M ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED...
SHE'LL KEEP ON WORKING HER...

INSTINCTS AWAKENED


ポイ TOSS
ポイ TOSS
ポイ TOSS
KURUSU'S TOSS IS PRETTY SEVERE...
...BUT CHITOSE-SAN HAS ALL THE REFLEXES OF A COW
HAH HAH!
IT'S KIND OF ASTONISHING HOW MUCH SHE MANAGES TO WHIFF IT...
WOW...



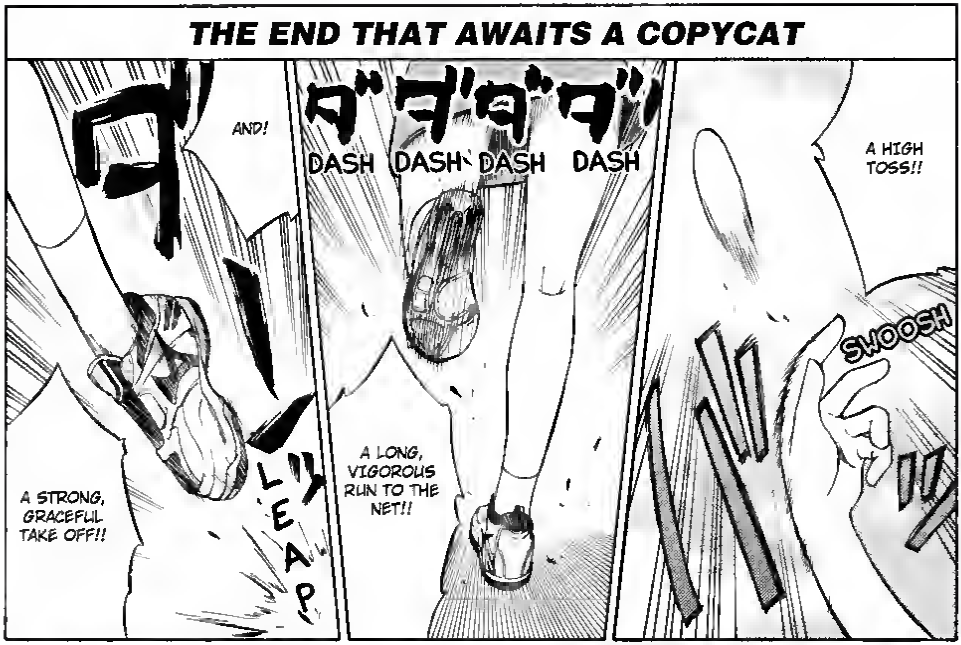
GAMBLING BAY
WANT TO WAGER JUICE OR SOMETHING ON A MATCH?
HEY, HEY!
THINGS GET DULL IF WE DON'T HAVE A LITTLE THRILL ONCE IN A WHILE.
I THINK YOU NEED TO PICK SOMETHING THEY ACTUALLY SELL IN VENDING MACHINES.
ズモ TA-DAH! ン
SOBA NOODLE BROTH.
EVERYONE SAY WHAT YOU WANT.
OKAY THEN!
RIGHT?
OOOH, GOOD IDEA. SOUNDS FUN.
LOOKS LIKE SHE'LL BE FINE WITH ANYTHING...
SHE'S REALLY INTO IT
...
SWING SWING SWING SWING SWING
JUICE! JUICE!
CHITOSE-SAN ...
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT...?
SO, THERE USED TO BE THIS BOY, KAKERU-KUN, WHO LIVED IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AND...
キュピ PING ーン

THE MATCH BEGINS

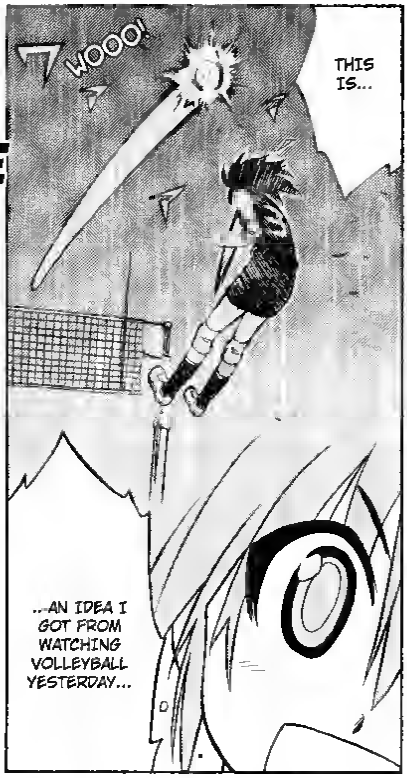
LOGICAL TENNIS
THEN...
CALCULATING THE ENTRY ANGLE AND THE REBOUND ANGLE AS WELL AS MY REFLEXES...
THEORY SAYS YOU SHOULD AIM FOR YOUR FRONT OPPONENT'S LEFT FOOT WHEN GOING FOR A SMASH.
CALM DOWN AND THINK, CHITOSE.
THAT'S RIGHT, IF I RECALL...
SHE'S GOING TO END THIS... NO!
ポコ
BOP
WHOOP, YOU'RE WIDE OPEN.
WELL, IF EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD WENT ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS I'M SURE LIFE WOULD GET PRETTY BORING...
GO TEAM!
BRING IT, KOTONE-CHAN...!
A COUNTERMEASURE BEGINS TO SHOW ITSELF!!!

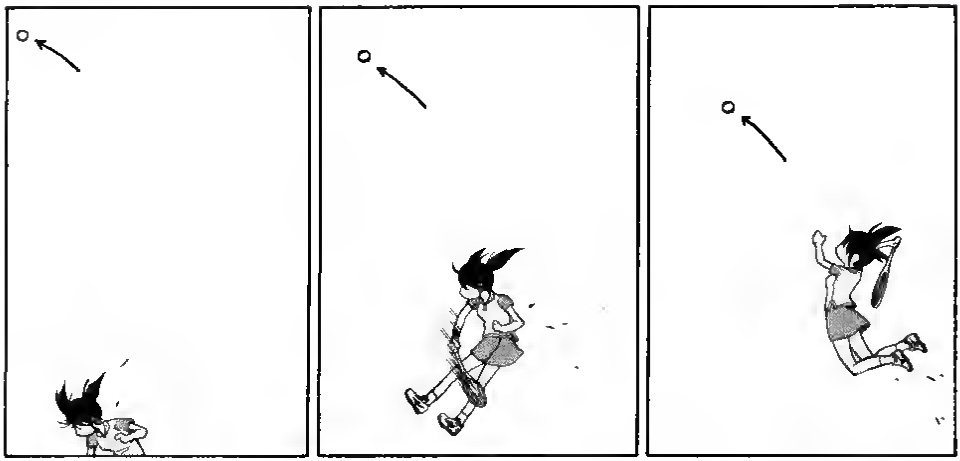
21 CUT: A BALL WITH A REVERSE OR SIDE SPIN ON IT. IT'S HARD TO READ ITS MOVEMENT.

THE MERCILESS CONCLUSION

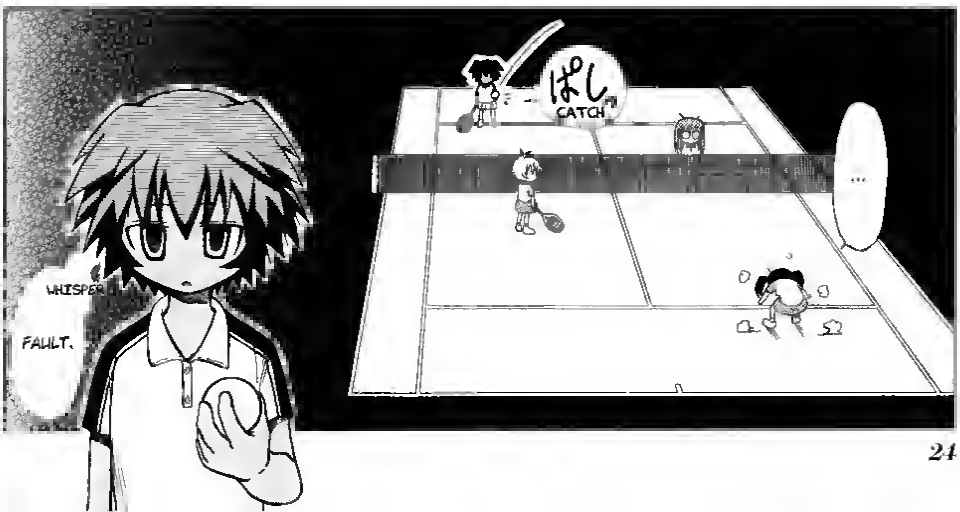

THE END THAT AWAITS A COPYCAT
AND!
LEAP
A STRONG, GRACEFUL TAKE OFF!!
DASH DASH DASH DASH
A LONG, VIGOROUS RUN TO THE NET!!
A HIGH TOSS!!
SWOOSH

JUMP SERVE ...
VERSION S!!!


WOOO!
THIS IS...
...AN IDEA I GOT FROM WATCHING VOLLEYBALL YESTERDAY...



SKREEEEECH


ぽし
CATCH
...
WHISPER
FAULT.

WHEW...
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY DARK OUT.
WHOA!
LOOK AT THE TIME!
NO WONDER IT'S SO HARD TO SEE THE BALL.

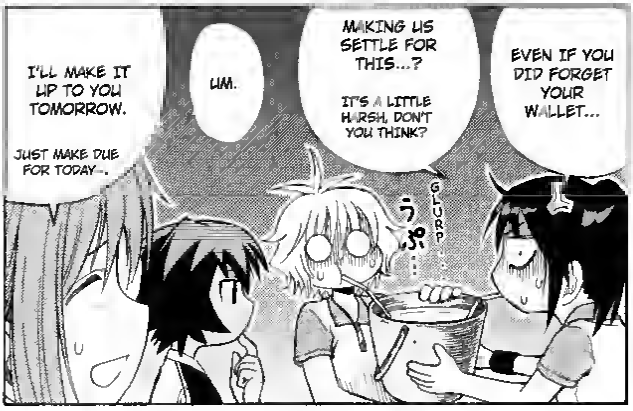
OKAY, NEXT ONE TO TAKE A POINT WINS IT.
YEAH.
WE'RE EVEN RIGHT NOW.
OKAY
LET'S SETTLE THIS AND GET US SOME JUICE!!
YEAH!!

モリモリモリモリモリモリ
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH M
UNCH
モリモリモ
モリモ
モ

ごくん
GULP

KACHANG!

モ"ーーーーーーーーーーーー…
MOOOO...

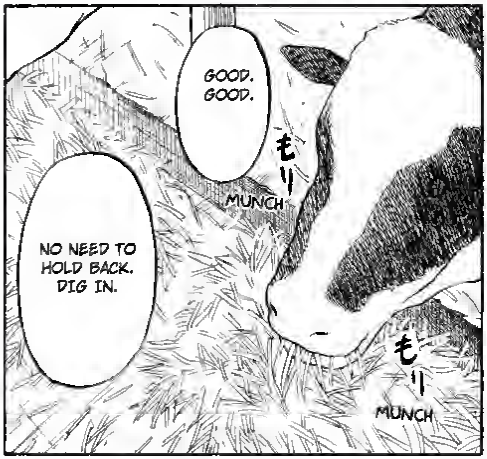

I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU TOMORROW.
JUST MAKE DUE FOR TODAY-.
UM.
MAKING US SETTLE FOR THIS...?
IT'S A LITTLE HARSH, DON'T YOU THINK?
EVEN IF YOU DID FORGET YOUR WALLET...
GULP...

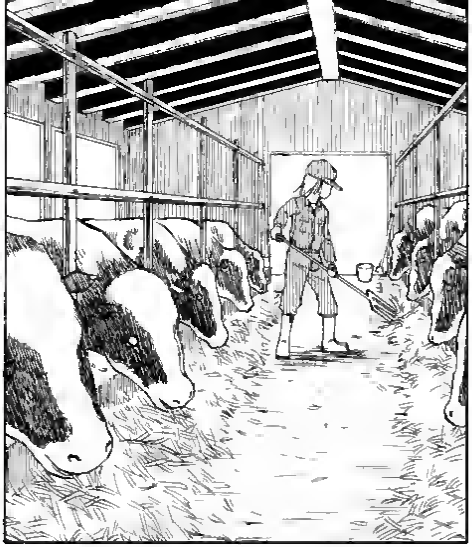
AND THUS..
LISTEN, CHITOSE-SAN ...

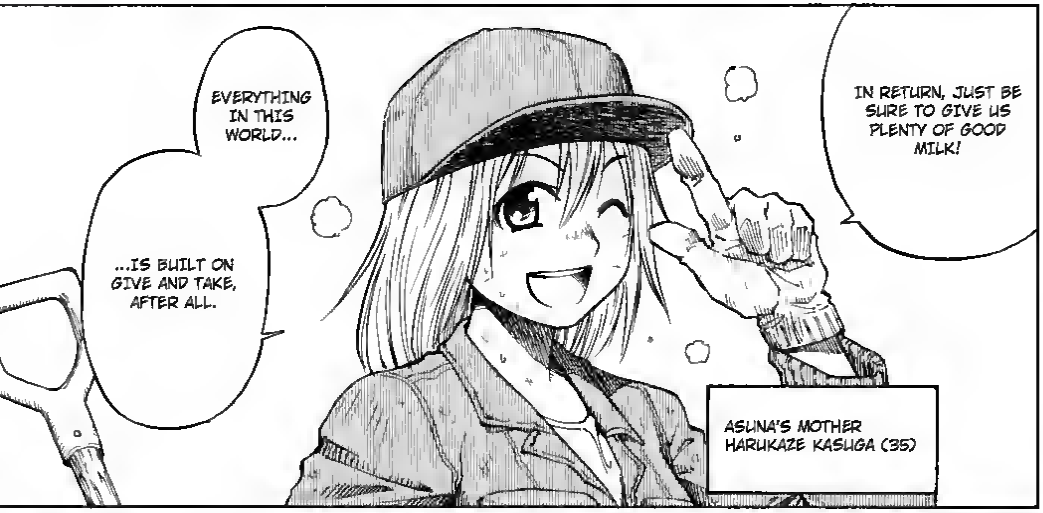
KYO ADUCHI PRESENTS
URP...

WHAT A LOVELY MORNING!
NNNGH!
春風牧場
TODAY LOOKS LIKE...
ANOTHER GREAT DAY FOR SOFT TENNIS! ♪

第2ゲーム あされんっ
GAME 2 – MORNING PRACTICE

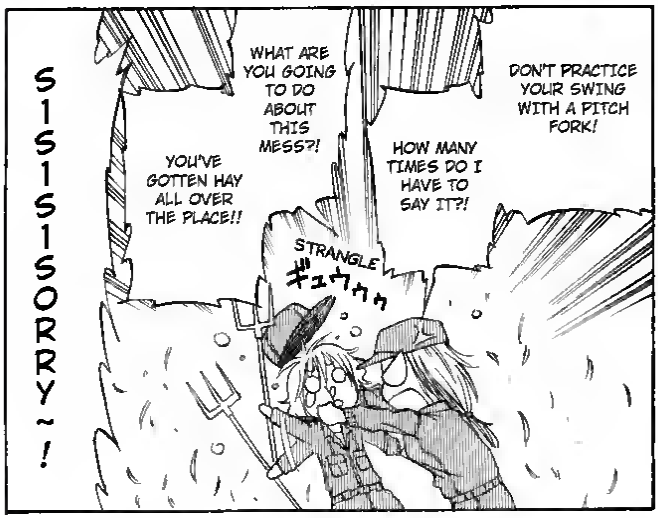

GOOD. GOOD.
もりっ
MUNCH
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK. DIG IN.
もりっ
MUNCH




EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD...
...IS BUILT ON GIVE AND TAKE, AFTER ALL.
IN RETURN, JUST BE SURE TO GIVE US PLENTY OF GOOD MILK!
ASUNA'S MOTHER HARUKAZE KASUGA (35)

NOW THEN...
HOW'S IT GOING, ASUNA?!
DOING WELL OVER THERE...?
?
SWISH
SWISH

SWISH
ばっさ
SWISH
ばっさ
!!!


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS MESS?!
DON'T PRACTICE YOUR SWING WITH A PITCH FORK!
YOU'VE GOTTEN HAY ALL OVER THE PLACE!!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?!
STRANGLE
ギュウウウ
SISISORRY~!

AH...!
ASUNAAAA!!!

ASUNA HEADING OUT

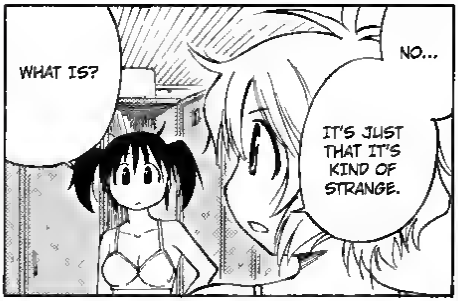
ON BEHALF OF TOMORROW
TUP TUP TUP
たったった
OKAY, SPECIAL PRACTICE, NUMBER 1.
BY RUNNING TO SCHOOL...
...I'LL BUILD MY ENDURANCE AND LEG STRENGTH.
I'M HEADING OUT
♪AGAIN.
BYE, MOM
I WON'T LOSE!
THIS IS NOTHING!
DASH
ブーン… VROOM...
AH.
...
ブーン VROOM...

KOTONE JAPAN
BWOOSH
KEEP IT UP! ONLY 5 KILOMETERS TO GO!
DON'T GIVE IN TO WEAKNESS!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
TUP TUP
TUP...
GO FOR IT! GO FOR IT! JAPAN!
JAPAN CHA CHA CHA!
SLACKING OFF ON THE FIRST DAY...
HONESTLY
WRIGGLE
I'LL SHOW YOU CHA CHA!
AWWW!
WRIGGLE
CREAK...
FIGHT! GO GET 'EM!"
THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!
HA HAH!

WE MADE IT.
WHEW!
WHEEZE
GASP
HA HAH!
I'D RATHER NOT DO IT AT NIGHT THOUGH...
IT'S KIND OF A FRESH EXPERIENCE BEING AT SCHOOL WHEN THERE'S NO ONE AROUND.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IS IT SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS?
THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE COURT.
ON THE BENCH.
HUH?

HOOONK-SHUU
HOOONK-SHUU
OH, IT'S JUST MISSHI.
WAKE UP, COACH.
...UH.
NNNGH...
JEEZ!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING SLEEPING OUT HERE, MISSHI?
AH...
KOTONE AND ASUNA...?
...
HUH?
SOFT TENNIS CLUB ADVISOR MISHIMAGI YOH
WELL, LAST NIGHT...
THE PRINCIPAL MADE ME STAY OUT DRINKING WITH HIM.
HONESTLY. THERE'S NO HELPING YOU.
SO
WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU...
...DOING HERE AT SCHOOL ALREADY?
IT'S STILL ONLY 6:00
HUH? MOURNING WHAT?
RADIO CALISTHENICS?
MORNING PRACTICE.
...
NEVER MIND. GO FRESHEN UP AND GET WITH IT.
YOU'RE STILL HALF-ASLEEP

SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB



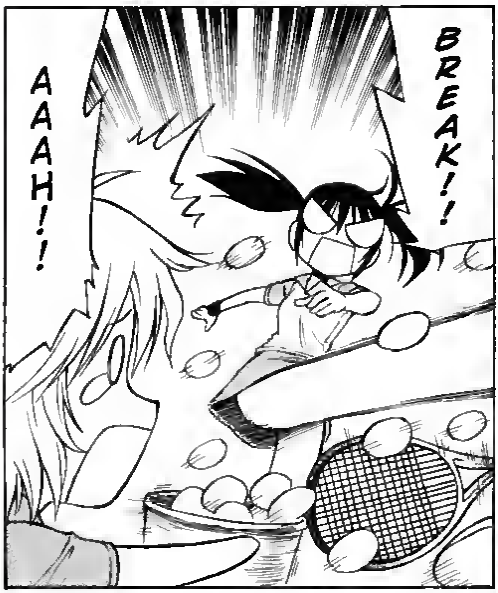
IT'S FINE.
I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY...
DASH
S-SORRY!!!

ACK!
!!
!!!
JUMP

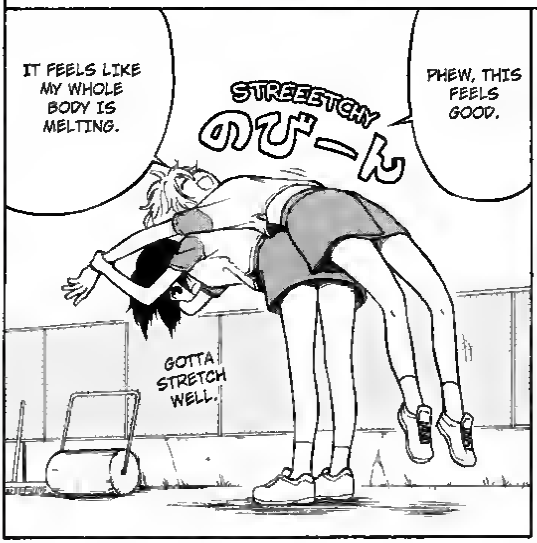
AS LONG AS IT'S YOU...
I DON'T MIND IF YOU SEE ME...
IT'S OKAY.
BADUM
...
KO--!

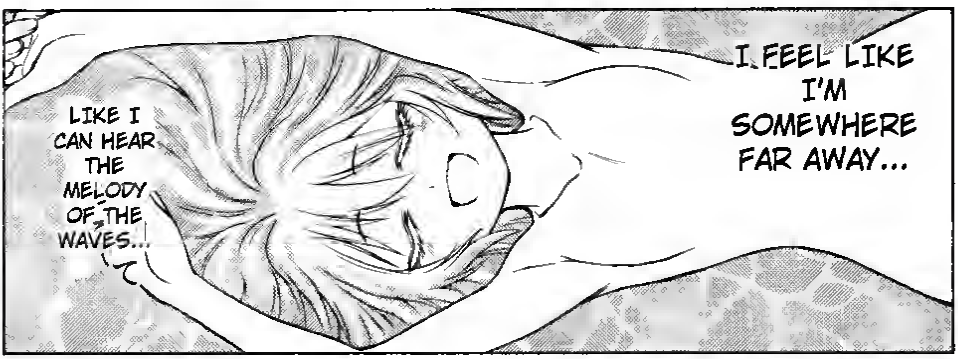
KOTNEEEE!
OOOH MISSHII!
...LIKE THAT!!
LIKE HELL!!
AW, BABY!

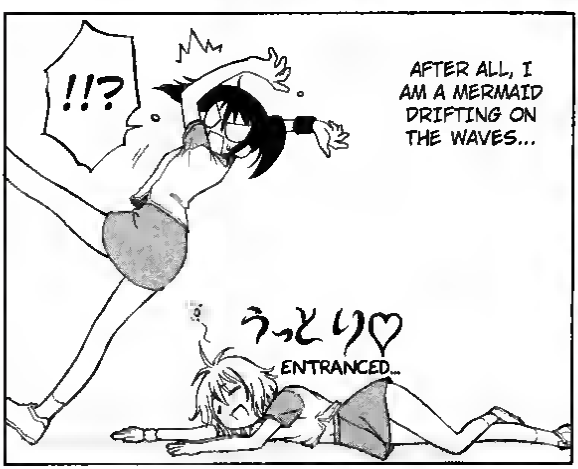
THE WOMAN WHO DID NOT RETURN AND DESTRUCTION

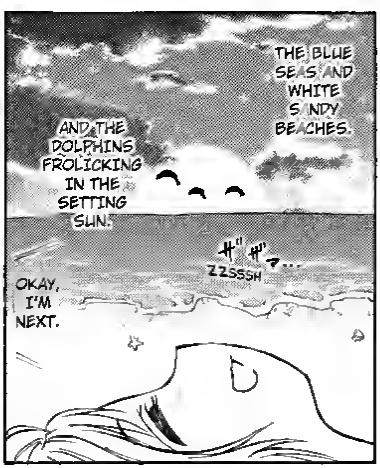


ROMANTIC STRETCHING



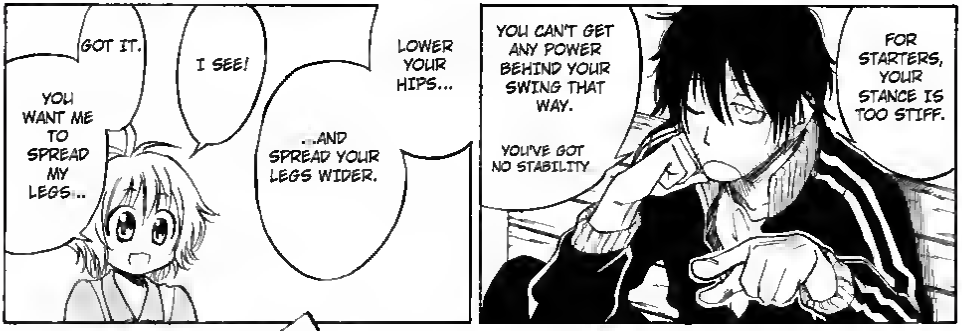






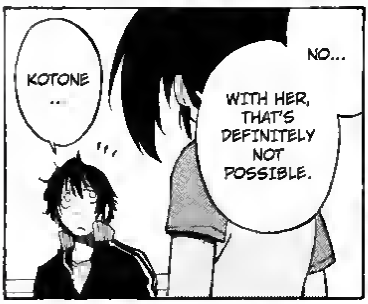
THE MAGIC TECHNIQUE

SEEKING ADVICE


GOT IT.
I SEE!
YOU WANT ME TO SPREAD MY LEGS..
LOWER YOUR HIPS...
..AND SPREAD YOUR LEGS WIDER.
YOU CAN'T GET ANY POWER BEHIND YOUR SWING THAT WAY.
YOU'VE GOT NO STABILITY
FOR STARTERS, YOUR STANCE IS TOO STIFF.

OH, SHE'S HERE
YUP.
NOT SURE ABOUT KURUSU-CHAN THOUGH.
CHITOSE-SAN'S BAG AND SOME HALF-EATEN RICE WERE IN THE CLUBROOM

COME TO THINK OF IT, CHITOSE-SAN STILL HASN'T COME BACK.
A LITTLE LONG FOR HER TO BE GOING TO THE WASHROOM
WHAT?
IS AKIYAMA HERE, TOO?


KOTONE ...
NO... WITH HER, THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT POSSIBLE.

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT GIRL PUTS BEFORE FOOD...?
HARD TO BELIEVE.
ONLY HALF-EATEN?
THAT'S A SHOCKER.

HALF-EATEN RICE...
A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEAR-ANCE...
AND TAKING THAT PERSON'S NATURE INTO CONSIDERATION ...
WE ARE NATURALLY LEAD TO ONLY ONE ANSWER!

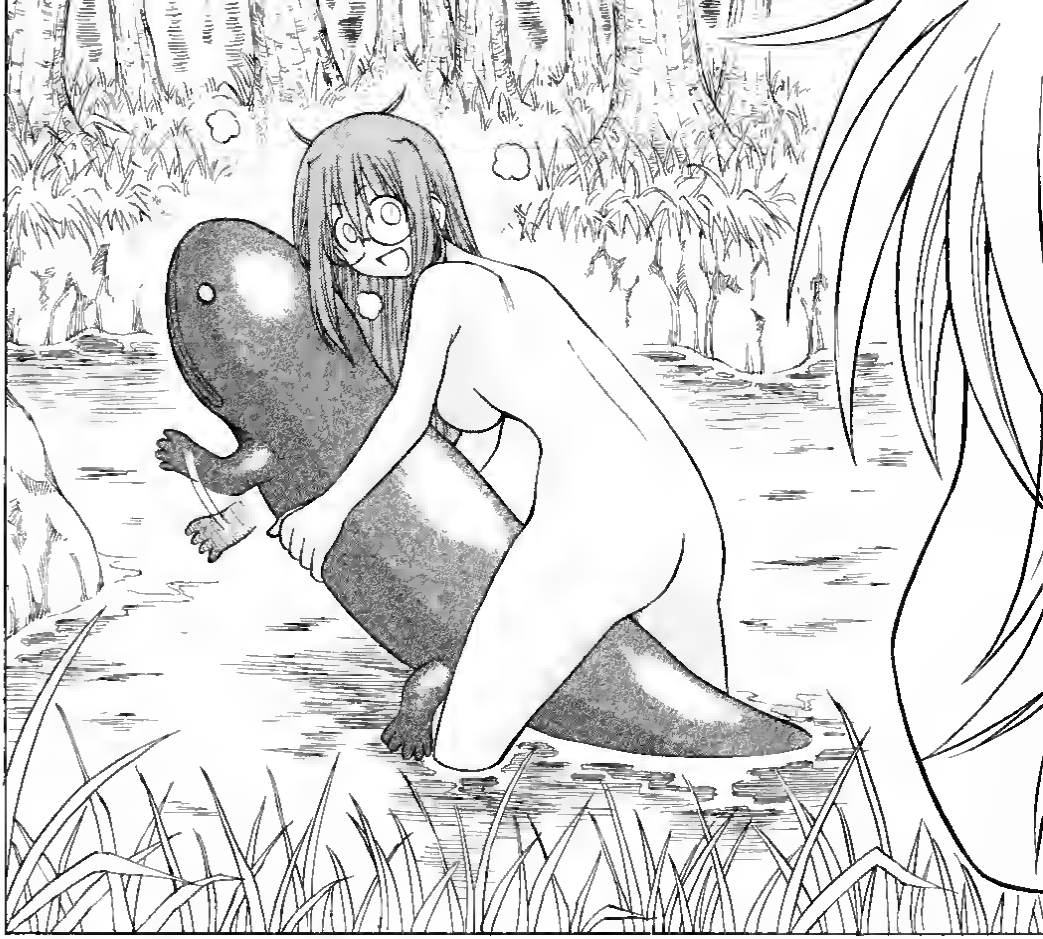
SHE HAD TO SECURE PROVI-SIONS POST-HASTE!!
IN THAT CASE THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
THIS MORNING CHITOSE CARELESSLY FORGOT THE BOX WITH HER SIDE DISHES IN IT!
OH NO...!
AND THAT ANSWER IS SIDE DISHES!!!
AAH!
BUT OF COURSE THERE'S NO WAY AN APPETITE LIKE HERS COULD LET THAT SLIDE!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH!!!!

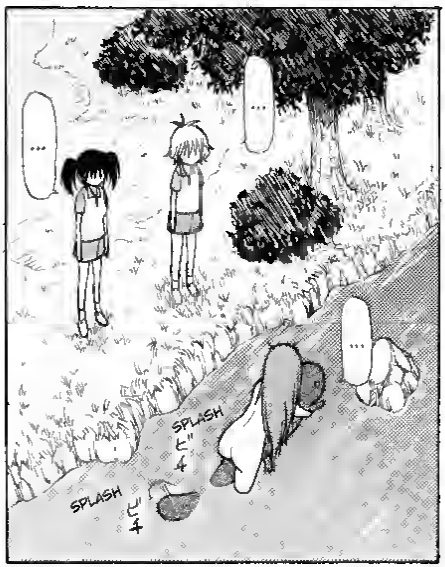
RIGHT THEN.
...YOU TWO START SEARCHING DOWN BY THE RIVER.
SO WITH THAT IN MIND...
YESSIR!
BET SHE'S FISHING OR SOMETHING

SAY--
SAY WHAT?!

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO START PRACTICE...
CHITOSE-SAN!

HA HAH!
WONDERFUL. JUST AS EXPECTED.
AH!
KOTONE-CHAN, OVER THERE!!
SPLASH
SPLISH




...
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SPLASH
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SPLASH
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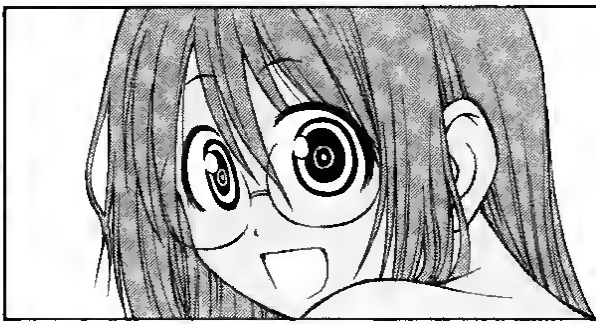
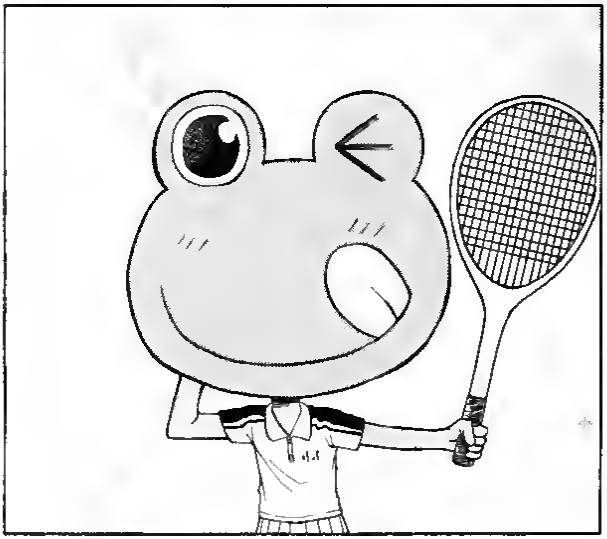
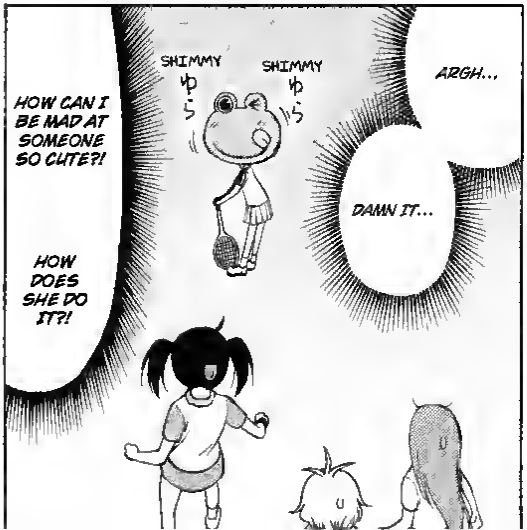


CHITOSE'S TRUE INTENTIONS

SO, CHITOSE-SAN...
WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU DOING THERE NAKED...?
ソフトテニス部
OH...?
I WAS, WELL...YOU KNOW...
THE RIVER JUST LOOKED SO NICE, AND WHEN I GOT IN...
...I HAPPENED TO MEET A GIANT SALAMANDER.
I MEAN, THEY'RE REALLY RARE, RIGHT?
SO I FIGURED I'D STOP TO PLAY FOR A BIT.
PLAYING...?
...
RIGHT..
HA HAH.
WELL, ANYWAY...
I'M JUST RELIEVED IT'S NOT WHAT I THOUGHT
REALLY RELIEVED
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS.
I GOT CAUGHT UP AND LOST TRACK OF TIME...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS!
I'M REALLY SORRY...
DON'T APOLOGIZE!
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN I...
...WOULDN'T EAT AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.
HEH HEH!
OF COURSE NOT!
AHA HA HA!
THAT'D JUST BE RIDICULOUS.

THE GIRL WHO CAME LATE ONCE AGAIN

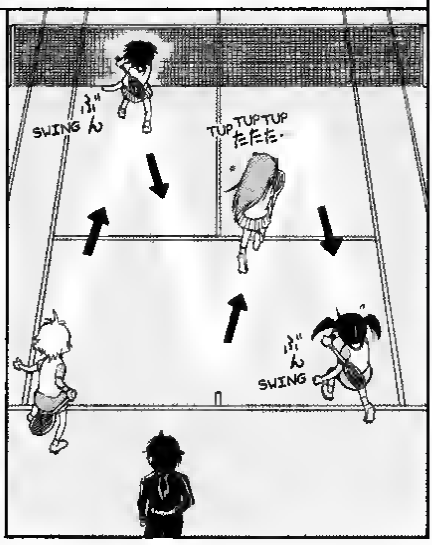




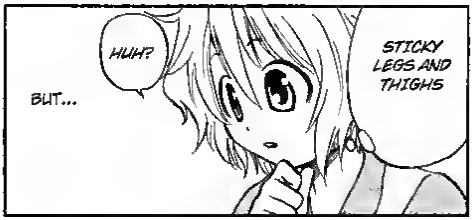
THE DIFFERENCE OF EFFORT IN THE SHADOWS

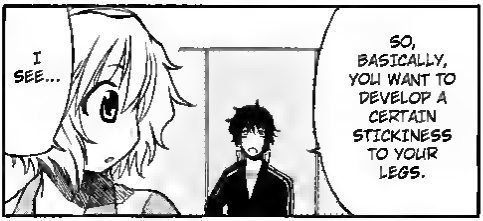
I MEAN...
I FIGURE YOU JUST SLEPT IN.
WHY WERE YOU LATE?
WHERE DID YOU BUY THIS, ANYWAY?
SO?
SOLO PRACTICE...
WHAT?
ER. NO... UH...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE DOING, I'LL KINDLY OVERLOOK IT THIS TIME...
BUT, TARDY IS TARDY.
MY APOLOGIES.
YOUR BAD?
I MEAN, MY BAD.
SHE CAN'T SAY A THING...
20 KILOMETERS OF RUNNING, 500 SWINGS, 100 EACH OF PUSH-UPS
AND 4 SETS OF ZIG-ZAG RUNS AND BACK-AND-FORTH DASHES
SIT-UPS AND BACK STRETCHES.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS LATE.

BACK AND FORWARD MOVEMENT AND STICKY THIGHS

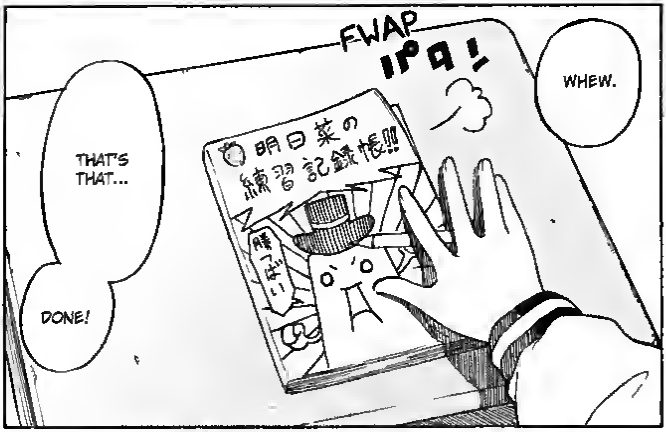


IF YOU TRIP OVER YOUR OWN FEET IN THE PROCESS, YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH SCREWED.
SEE, IN MATCHES YOU HAVE TO RUN BETWEEN THE BACK COURT AND FRONT COURT TO REACH THE BALL.
TRIP





OKAY THEN.
LET'S DO A PRACTICE MATCH.
SWEET!
I WON'T LOSE!
SO THEN...
I'LL SERVE ONE UP!
HERE GOES! LET'S DO THIS!
HERE I GO!
ONE, TWO...
BII—NG!
BO—NG!
EH?
OH.
THERE'S THE BELL.
CRUD! HOMEROOM'S GONNA START!!!
BUT WE HAVE TO CLEAN UP THE COURT.
WE'LL DO IT LATER. LATER.
RATS. I FORGOT WE HAD A STAFF MEETING.
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
SQUEAL
SQUEAL



BOOK: ASUNA'S PRACTICE LOG "I'M GONNA WIN"

NOT A SINGLE BALL...
I DIDN'T HIT ANYTHING TODAY...
LOOKS LIKE THE ROAD TO THE TOURNAMENT IS GOING TO BE MORE PERILOUS THAN I THOUGHT

RUMBLE
WHAT'S THE MATTER...?
REALLY...
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.
BRING IT ON!
...
ALL OF YOU!

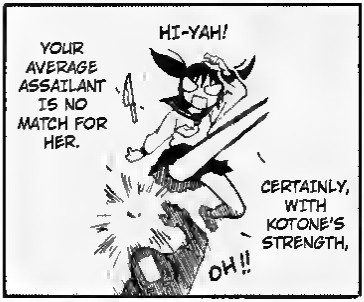
第3ゲーム ひめごとっ
GAME 3 – SECRET

SIGN: SAWANATSU DOJO

AND THIS IS AFTER BEATING DOWN TWENTY GUYS. .?
SHE'S GOING TO CLUB PRACTICE ON HER DAY OFF. .
...
KOTONE-CHAN SURE IS ENERGETIC...
HA HA
HOW NICE TO BE YOUNG...

THEN BE CAREFUL OF CARS.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN EVEN IF THE LIGHT IS GREEN.
YES, SIR.
RUMBLE

I SEE.
HMPH.
AH... SORRY, POPS.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RUN TO SCHOOL.


HI-YAH!
YOUR AVERAGE ASSAILANT IS NO MATCH FOR HER.
CERTAINLY, WITH KOTONE'S STRENGTH,
OH!!

GASP!

BESIDES, IF ANY WEIRDOES COME AFTER ME..
...I CAN GIVE THEM A GOOD BEATING MYSELF.
I SEE...

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DANGEROUS INCIDENTS LATELY, SO BE WARY...
RUMBLE
ALSO ...
RUMBLE
HA HAH! YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT THE CITY.
NOT THIS BACKWATER.

KOTONE-CHAN LEFT ALREADY.
KOTONE, PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE YOU AFTER ALL...
NRF?
...
HE'S THE OVER-PROTECTIVE KING. AS ALWAYS.

...HAPPENED TO BE NAKED...
...AND THEY ATTACKED HER...
HOWEVER, IF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE OF MY SKILL-LEVEL...
YIKES..

GO EARLY!!
ALL RIGHT, THERE'S STILL AN HOUR...
..BEFORE PRACTICE STARTS.
MADE IT. I'M HERE.
HUFF はぁ
PHEW..
SMIRK にひっ
ガチャ.. KA-CHAK
SCUFF
KREE
SCRUNCH
WAIT.
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
WHA?!
HUUUH?
I'M JUST THE USUAL KOTONE-CHAN?
TEE HEE!
THAT'S A LIE!
KOTONE IS NOT THAT SPARKLY!
JUMP
MISSHI!!!
OH, KOTONE?
HMPH..
MIRACULOUSLY, IT LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT ON TIME.
SLAM

EVERYONE GETS READY FOR SCHOOL
IN ASUNA'S CASE
ASUNA!
MOO! IF YOU DON'T HURRY AND GET UP...
AUGH!
THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL GET!!
IN CHITOSE'S CASE
THERE!
完成
OFF I GO!
TEXT: COMPLETE
IN KURUSU'S CASE
HOLLYWOOD
I GOT YER STUFF HERE.
GOOD JOB...
HAHAHA

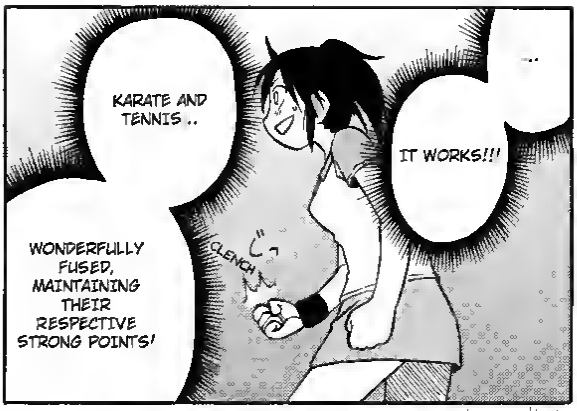
KOTONE'S AIM
DON'T YOU KNOW?
GIGGLE...
YOU SURE ARE DENSE, MISSHI.
HOW COME YOU CALLED ME OUT HERE EARLY LIKE THIS?
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO?
SHUAAA
SO?
IF A STUDENT AND HER COACH ARE DOING SOMETHING OUT OF SIGHT OF EVERYONE...
IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...
!!!
SLIP... しゅる..
!!!
FLUTTER
WHOA--
HEY NOW, KOTONE!!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU...?!
STACEY...

SECRET TRAINING!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
TA
MERCILESS HOT-BLOODED GUIDANCE!!
DAH!
バチコーン!
KA-WHAP
FLOWING BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS!!!
ズザザザザ
DRAG DRAG DRAG
NOW, COACH, THIS IS OUR CHANCE.
THIS IS THE SPLENDOR OF YOUTH!!
...
LET US RACE TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN!
TAKE MY HAND!
THIS GIRL WAS BORN IN THE WRONG ERA.
DEFINITELY.
HELL NO.
...THE TWO GRADUALLY FORM...
A-
PARA-
AND THUS...
PAAAH!
GOOD JOB HANGING IN THERE!!!
...A DEFINITE BOND.
COACH!!!

THAT WHICH IS SOUGHT AND
THAT WHICH WE ARE CAPABLE OF
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
THAT'S NOT REALLY MY STYLE...
POK
HERE.
WHAT'RE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
NOW THEN, COACH!!
DO YOUR WORST.
GIVE ME A DIFFICULT ONE!!
YOU'RE TOO SOFT ON US, COACH!
THAT WAS WEAK!
SWABAM
THAT'S NOT IT!!!
HGCK!
NO...
I THINK I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT...
JEEZ! WHY DON'T YOU GET IT?!
YOU GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO BE CRUEL!
LIKE AIMING FOR MY FACE REPEATEDLY!!
I CAN'T DO THIS

HOT-BLOODED, IN ALL SENSES
ふぃん
SWING
ふぃん
SWING
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MISSHI?
OH, IF THAT'S ALL...
I CAN HANDLE THAT.
PUH-LEEZ. GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
WELL, AT LEAST CHECK MY FORM OR SOMETHING.
I SEE—I DO THAT, I GUESS...
HUH?
WHEN YOU SWING, YOUR TORSO FOLLOWS ALONG BEHIND.
YOU'RE LEANING FORWARD TOO MUCH...
KOTONE... YOU'VE GOT THIS BAD HABIT.
OKAY, YEAH.
...
HMM..
YOU-YOU CREEP!
THIS ISN'T A BAD HABIT AT ALL!
IT'S JUST MY INDIVIDUAL STYLE!!
DUMMY!
DUMMY!
...
DASH
WHAT DID YOU ASK ME TO LOOK AT YOUR FORM FOR, THEN...?
AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
GRAB
SO YOU HAVE TO MAINTAIN YOUR POSTURE UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR SWING, RIGHT...?
STAY LIKE THIS...
!!!?

A GREAT INVENTION
HEE HEE!
IT'S AN EXPERIMENT. AN EXPERIMENT!!
GENIUS, ISN'T IT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHADDYA THINK?" WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
WHADDYA THINK, MISSHI?!
TA DAH! ♪
SO, MISSHI.
THROW ME A FEW BALLS.
HUH?
WELL, I GUESS I CAN ..
HI-YAH!
KERTHWACK
UPPER VOLLEY!!!
FRONT KICK LOB!!!
THWACK


KARATE AND TENNIS ..
...
IT WORKS!!!
CLENCH
WONDERFULLY FUSED, MAINTAINING THEIR RESPECTIVE STRONG POINTS!

WHISHT

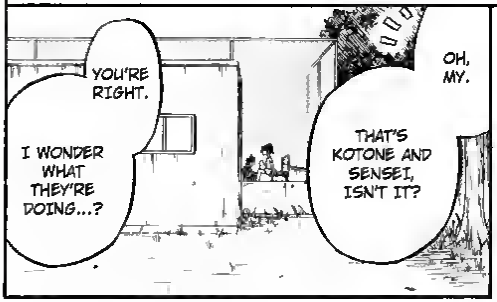
FINALLY...
FINALLY, I HAVE DISCOVERED MY OWN PLAY STYLE!
HUH?
YOU KNOW, KOTONE
I HATE TO DISRUPT YOUR MOMENT OF BLISS, BUT...
AFTER A YEAR OF UNSWERVING DETERMINATION ..

I THINK IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
WHO WENT AND MADE A RULE LIKE THAT...?
...
CURSES ...!
GLOOM
TUNK
TUNK
YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK PROPERLY LIKE THAT.

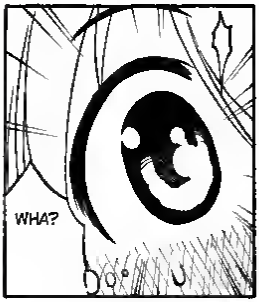
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES COMPLETELY
THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING...
WAH!
DASH
HUFF...
はっ
AWESOME!
はっ
HAAH
はっ
HAA
IF I KEEP UP THIS PACE...
I SHOULD MANAGE TO MAKE IT IN TIME.
WHAT THE--?! HUH?!
!!?
WHOA WHOA WHOA!
TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP
STOP!
MY LUNCH!
TUPTUP TUP
EEK!
...? WHAT ON EARTH...?

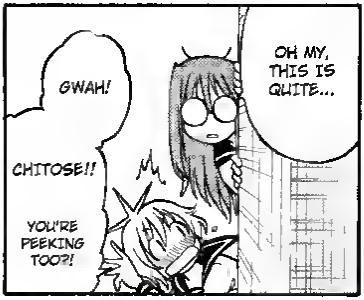
THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS SAW IT

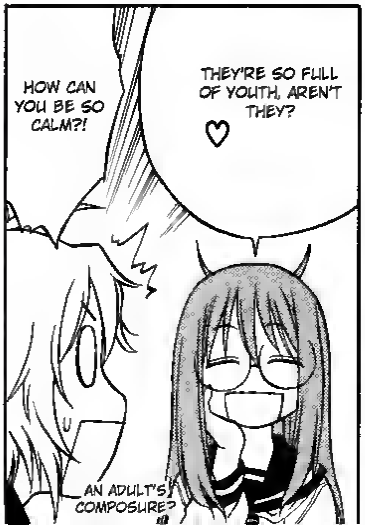


ASUNA AND CHITOSE ARRIVE AT SCHOOL.
AH HA HA.
IF YOU BRING THAT MUCH, OF COURSE THEY'LL COME AFTER IT.
I'M CRYING HERE..
WHAT A HORRILE EXPERIENCE
THEY ATE ALMOST EVERYTHING ...

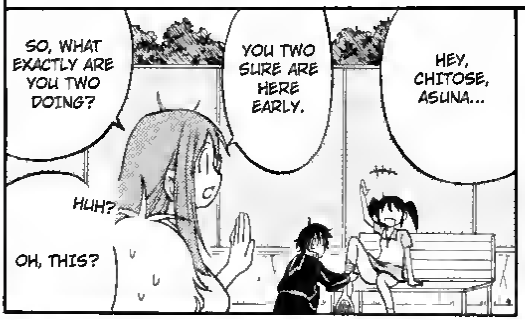


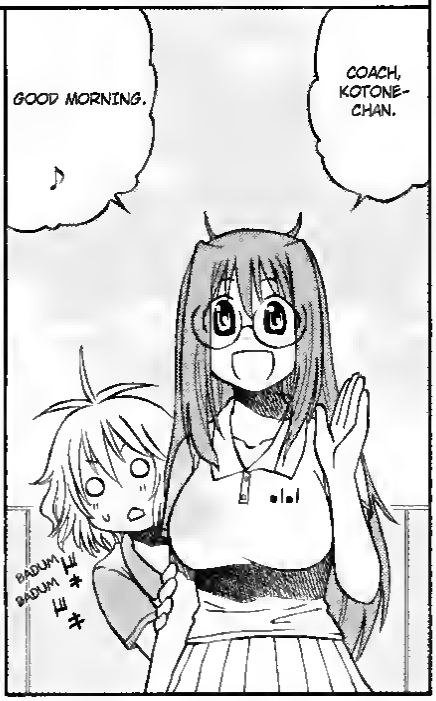
↑ HIDING, FOR SOME REASON





THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS IS SHOCKED

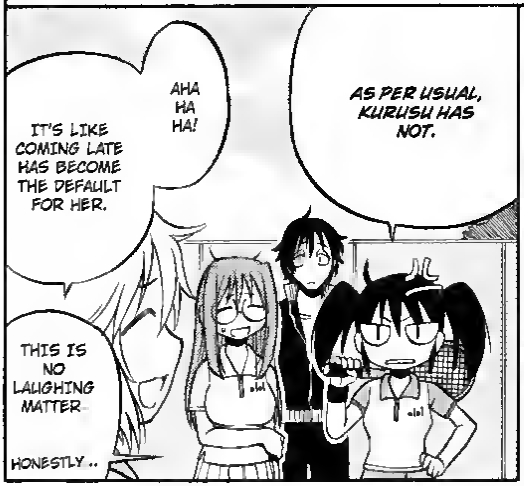


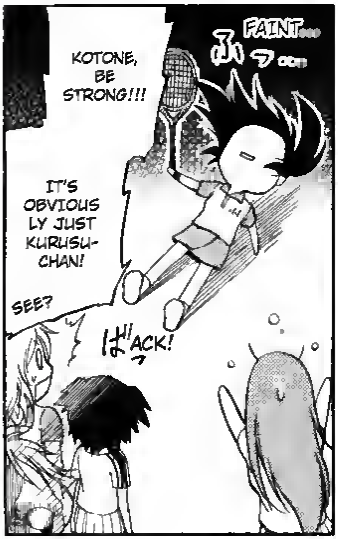


THEY'RE REALLY BITING INTO MY FLESH AND WON'T COME LOOSE.
AND THE ROPES WERE TIED TOO TIGHT.
OH WELL, WE WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH A NEW SPECIAL TECHNIQUE.
!!?
JEEZ.

HA HAH!
THOUGH THERE WERE A FEW SHORT-COMINGS WITH THE TECHNIQUE!
I... I HAD NO IDEA THINGS HAD DEVELOPED SO FAR...
IT CAN ONLY GET WORSE...
はあ HUFF
はあ HUFF
ハッ
SADLY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE IT UP
LESSEE.

LONELINESS AND SHAMELESSNESS

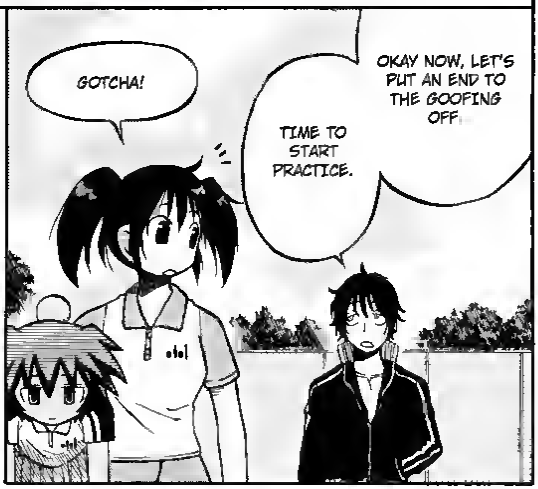

AS PER USUAL, KURUSU HAS NOT.
AHA HA HA!
IT'S LIKE COMING LATE HAS BECOME THE DEFAULT FOR HER.
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.
HONESTLY..

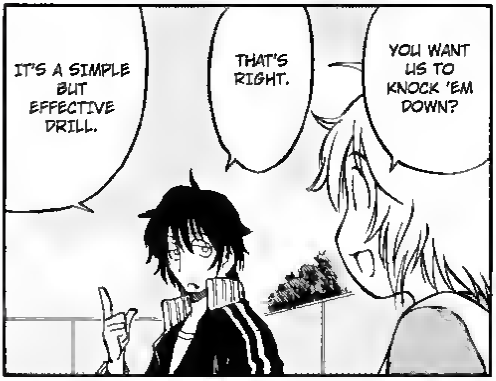


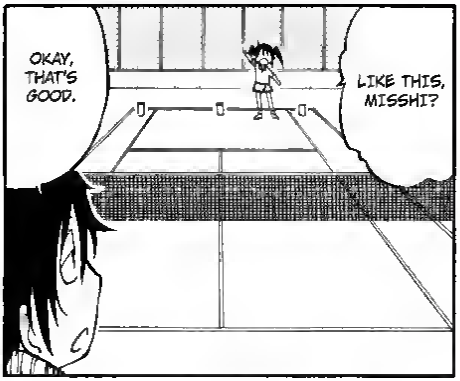
APOLOGY SERVICE

TEXT: HOPE DREAMS

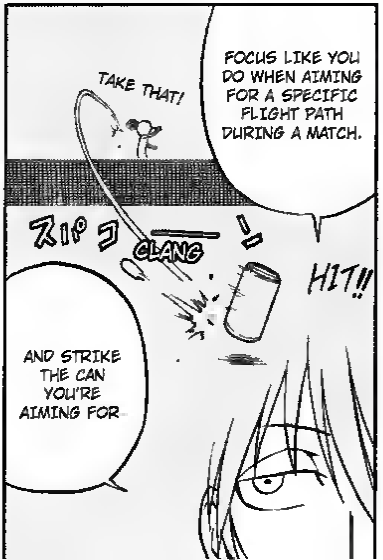
A CHALLENGE FROM MISSHI.





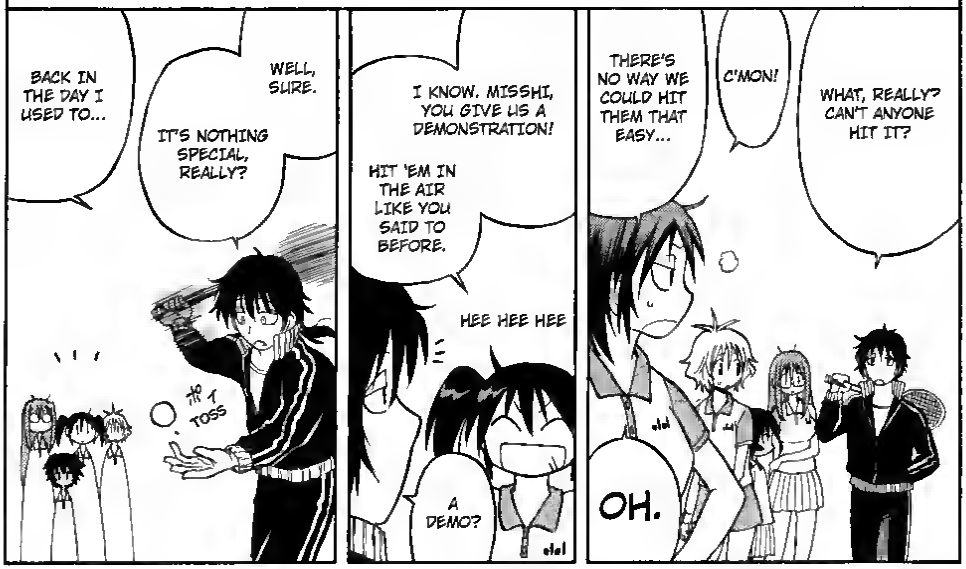


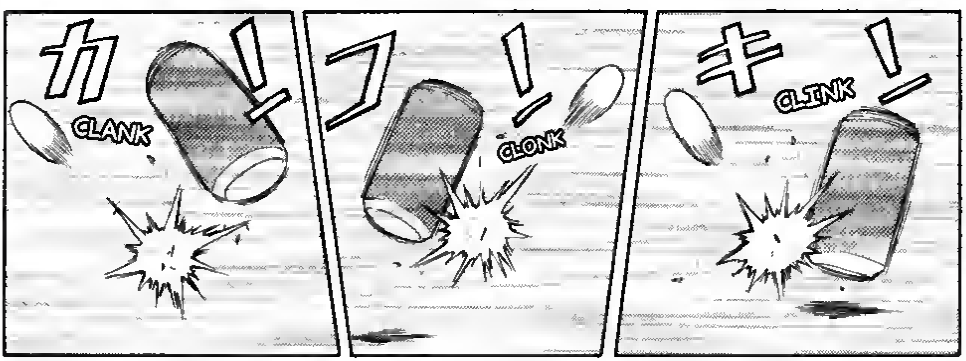
3HIT!!
JUST HITTING THEM SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH!!!
2HIT!!
AS IF WE COULD DO THAT!!
THEN...
HIT THAT CAN TWO MORE TIMES IN MID-AIR.
FOCUS HERE IS CRITICAL

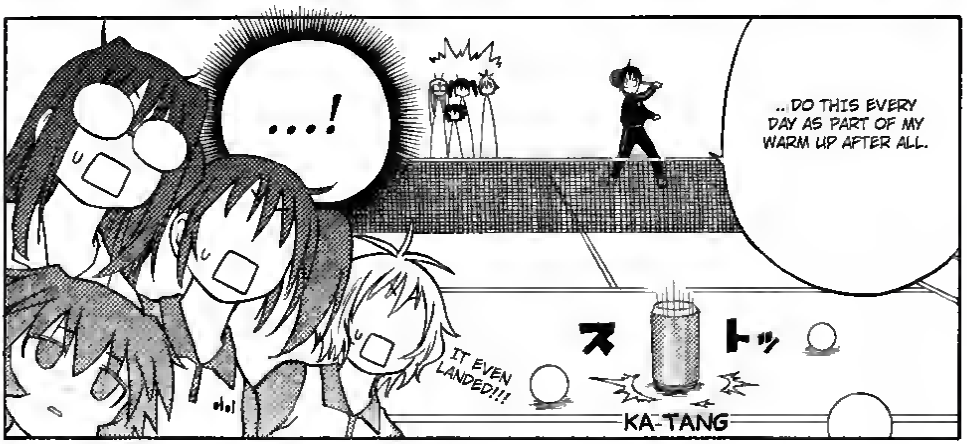

TAKE THAT!
FOCUS LIKE YOU DO WHEN AIMING FOR A SPECIFIC FLIGHT PATH DURING A MATCH.
ZIP
CLANG
HIT!!
AND STRIKE THE CAN YOU'RE AIMING FOR

AN UNEXPECTED SNIPER

LAZY-EYED SNIPER


BACK IN THE DAY I USED TO...
WELL, SURE.
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL, REALLY?
1 TOSS
I KNOW. MISSHI, YOU GIVE US A DEMONSTRATION!
HIT 'EM IN THE AIR LIKE YOU SAID TO BEFORE.
HEE HEE HEE
A DEMO?
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD HIT THEM THAT EASY...
C'MON!
WHAT, REALLY? CAN'T ANYONE HIT IT?
OH.





I DUNNO.
I'VE ONLY HEARD THAT HE HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SOFT TENNIS...

...
HEY...
WHO ON EARTH IS MISSHI, ANYWAY?

...
YOU WANT TO KNOW...?

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT TECHNIQUE...
THAT GOES WELL BEYOND JUST HAVING SOME PRIOR EXPERIENCE!

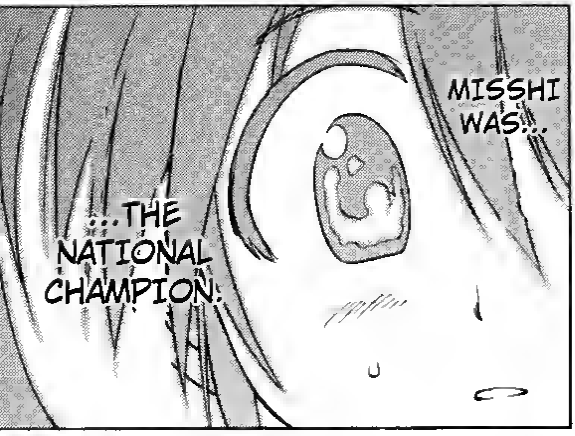
GASP!
LET'S SEE...
PAGE 23... PAGE 23...
!!?
EH?!

HERE...
?
AN OLD TENNIS MAGAZINE...?
SHFF
CHECK PAGE 23...

YOU... YOU KNOW SOMETHING, KURUSU?!
WHAT?!
MURMUR
WHAT'RE THEY DOING...?

TEXT: THE GENIUS MISHIMAGI YOH

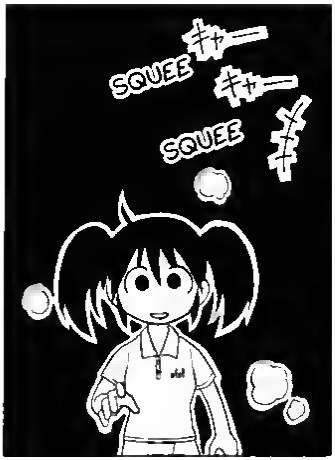
S-TIME VICTOR THE STAR OF A NEW ERA SHOCKING



H-HE WON THE HIGH SCHOOL JAPAN CUP THREE TIME IN A ROW...
I HAD NO IDEA..
THAT MEANS HE WAS TOP IN JAPAN THREE TIMES?
I NEVER DREAMED MISHIMAGI-SENSEI WAS SUCH AN INCREDIBLE PERSON.

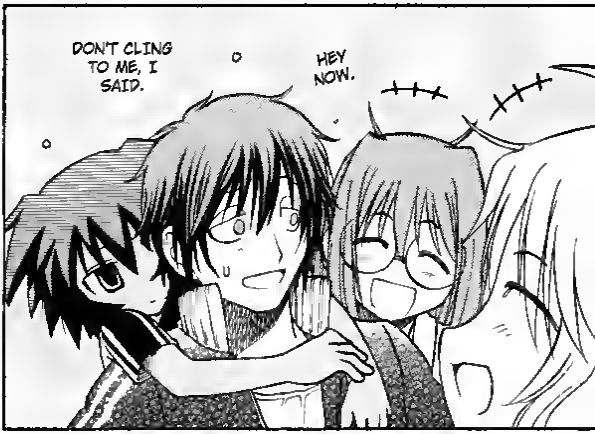
I CAN'T BELIEVE A GUY LIKE THAT...

...WOULD PUT UP WITH MY SPECIAL TRAINING!


SQUEE キャー
キャー
SQUEE

GYAH!
TEACH US YOUR SECRETS!
MISHIMAGI-SENSEI!
MISSH ...!
WHAT'S WITH YOU GIRLS?!
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN

...


DON'T CLING TO ME, I SAID.
HEY NOW.

HMM... MY LITTLE KOTONE.
I'M JUST GETTING WARMED UP!
HO-HOLD ON, KOTONE-CHAN!
PLEASE, GO EASY ON US..
HI-YAH!
HER TECHNIQUES SEEM TO HAVE MORE SNAP TO THEM SINCE SHE GOT HOME. .
THE YOUNG ONES DEVELOP SO FAST...
YEEP!

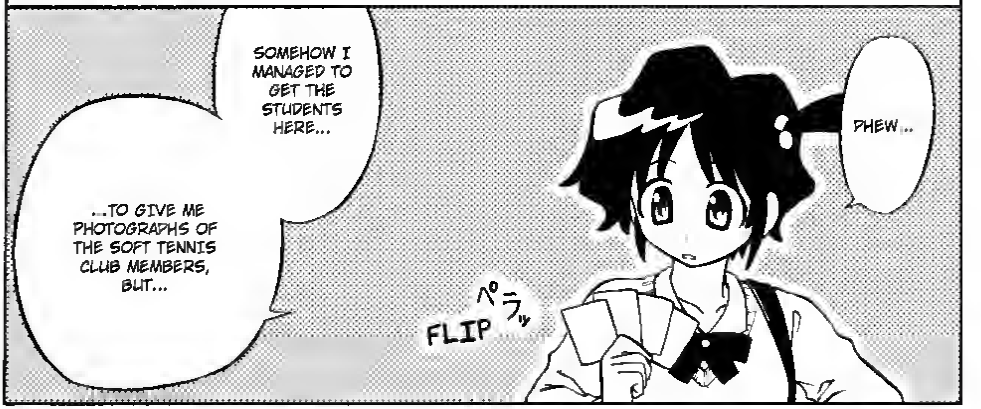
THAT NIGHT ...
WAAAH!
沢夏道場
SAWANATSU DOJO

第4ゲーム　せんぷく
GAME 4 – INFILTRATION

NOW THEN...
THIS IS MY FINAL TARGET.
SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFT TENNIS CLUB, HUH...?
HEH HEH...
A FEW DAYS AGO AT KUROTAMA MIDDLE-SCHOOL.
YOU UNDERSTAND, YUIRA?

I'LL INVESTIGATE EVERY LAST DETAIL ABOUT THEM!
THEIR PLAY STYLES AND HABITS...
...THEIR GRADES IN SCHOOL AND THEIR TASTES AND HOBBIES...
GREAT!
KUROTAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SOFT TENNIS CLUB
FIRST YEAR
HIRATSUKA YURA
(AGE 13)
THOSE ARE THE TEAMS WE HAVE A HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF PLAYING IN THE DISTRICT TOURNEY.
GO STRIP THEM BARE.
LEAVE IT TO ME, CAPTAIN
!!?
WHOA, WHOA! HOLD IT.
EVEN HOW MANY PAIRS OF PANTIES THEY HAVE!
AND, IF I HAVE TO...
I'LL INVESTIGATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL FETISHES AND EROGENOUS ZONES...
HEH HEH HEH...
JUST DO IT SO SKILLFULLY THAT I DON'T GET CAUGHT, RIGHT?
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
ゴゴ
...DON'T WORRY.
I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN
BASICALLY ...
WAIT--ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, YURA?!
INVASION OF PRIVACY NO GOOD, YOU HEAR ME!! NO GOOD!!
NO ONE SAID YOU NEED TO STRIP THEM THAT BARE!!
OFF I GO.
...AND FAXES FROM ALL OVER!!
WE'LL GET ANGRY TELEPHONE CALLS

FIRST IMPACT

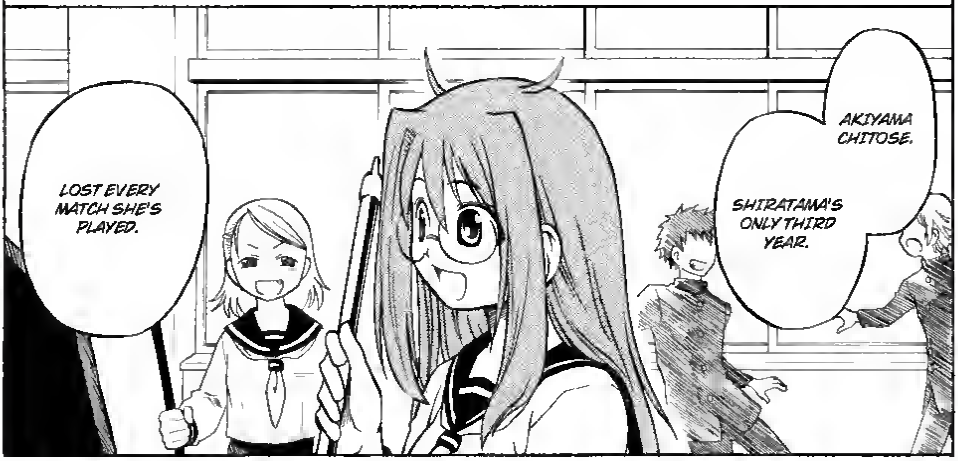


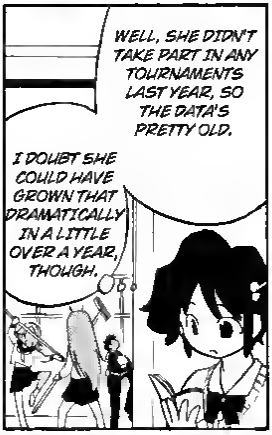
MASKED KURUSU | AKIYAMA CHITOSE | SAWANATSU KOTONE | HARUKAZE ASUNA

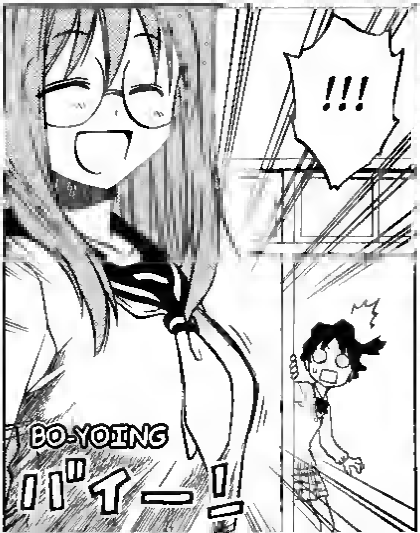
TEXT: HIS HOT BREATH ON MY
MOISTENED MY SHAMEFUL ____, MY LEGS TREMBLING
SLIDING HIS HAND ACROSS MY THIN BUSH
OVERFLOWING HONEY AND AN UN-CONCEALABLE

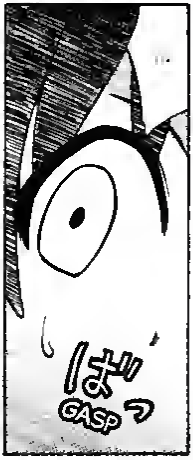
PROGRESS, WITH A MOTIVE BEHIND IT
SHE'S FALLEN THREE TIMES IN THE COURSE OF RUNNING 400 METERS...
BUT SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS THE MOST ATHLETIC OF THE BUNCH.
IT SEEMS MY EXPECTATIONS FOR SAWANATSU KOTONE WERE MISPLACED.
HMMM
...
SCRAPE
...!
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE'S RANKINGS.
ズズ..
SCRAPE
SCUFF
BUT...
SCUFF
ズ..
LOOK'S LIKE I'M IN LAST PLACE FOR SURE NOW..
...
HEH HEH ...
HAHH...
HFF
SHE HAS SUCH A DETERMINED LOOK EVEN IN A HOPELESS SITUATION LIKE THIS...!
SHE'S...
SIIIGH...
THE CROWD ALWAYS EATS IT UP...
...WHEN KOTONE DOES HER FAKE MOTIVATIONAL SCHTICK.
HURRAH!
わあああああ
AT LEAST HER DETERMINATION IS TOP TIER...
...SOMETHING YOUR HEART DECIDES FOR ITSELF!!
!!
YOUR RANK IS ALWAYS ...

AN EASY GUESS




WELL, SHE DIDN'T TAKE PART IN ANY TOURNAMENTS LAST YEAR, SO THE DATA'S PRETTY OLD.
I DOUBT SHE COULD HAVE GROWN THAT DRAMATICALLY IN A LITTLE OVER A YEAR, THOUGH.

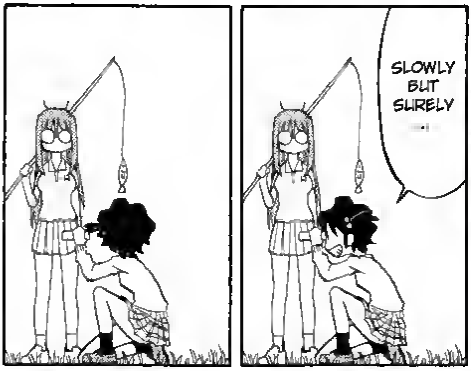




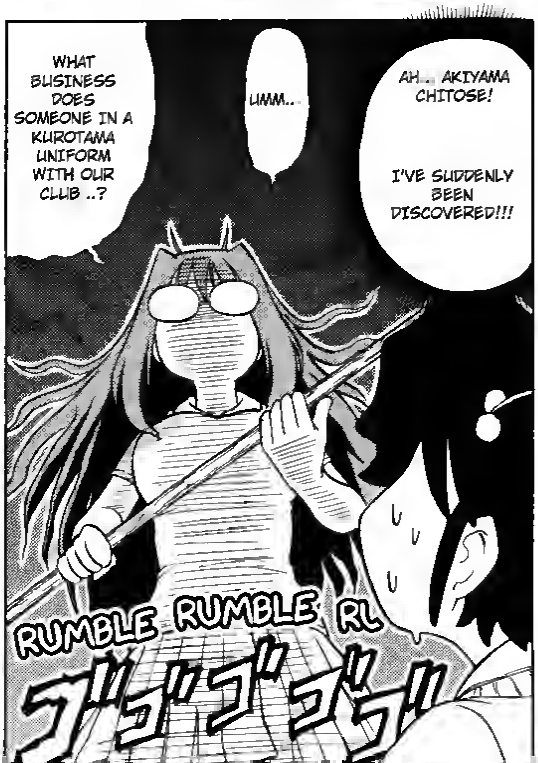
THE CHANCE THAT CAME
WERE THERE NO PICTURES OF HER WITHOUT A MASK...?
IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH TO TRACK HER DOWN...
...
THIS ONE...
ER.
WOO! TIME TA GO HOME!
AS I RECALL, THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT...
!!
TRY YOUR HARDEST AT CLUB!
SO LONG, KURUSU-CHAN.
MASKED KURUSU!!
NOW, LET'S SEE YOUR TRUE IDENTITY...
I'M IN LUCK! ♪
TUP TUP TUP
スタ スタ スタ
THAT'S HER NORMAL OUTFIT?!
THAT...
BYE BYE!

I'LL GET ALL YOUR DATA!
EVERY LAST BIT OF IT...
JUST YOU WAIT, SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL!

HMMM.
COMPARED TO THE GIRLS AT OTHER SCHOOLS...
IT'S HARD TO GET A HANDLE ON WHAT THE SHIRATAMA GIRLS ARE LIKE...
BUT OH WELL!
IF I WATCH THEM PRACTICE I'LL LEARN A LOT ABOUT THEM WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT.


SLOWLY BUT SURELY...

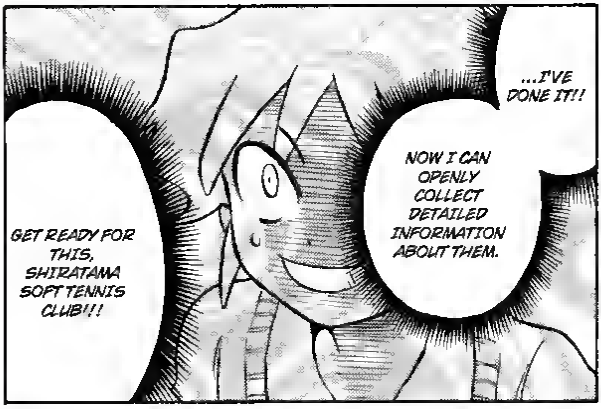
OH, NO... I...!
I JUST TRANSFERRED HERE TODAY, SEE..
I WAS CHECKING OUT WHAT THE CLUBS ARE LIKE, AND...

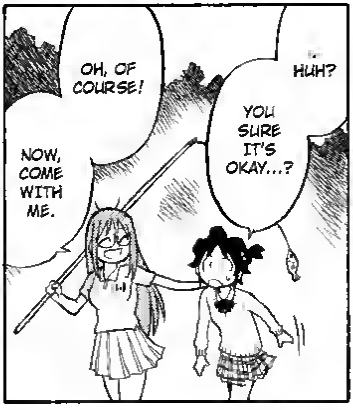

AH... AKIYAMA CHITOSE!
I'VE SUDDENLY BEEN DISCOVERED!!!
UMM...
WHAT BUSINESS DOES SOMEONE IN A KUROTAMA UNIFORM WITH OUR CLUB ..?
RUMBLE RUMBLE RL
ゴゴゴゴゴ

...
URK... EVEN I THINK THAT STORY REEKS...
UMM...

I'M SURE YOU CAN'T SEE WELL FROM SO FAR AWAY
COME DOWN TO THE COURT AND WATCH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
♡
THEN PLEASE, BE A SPECTATOR FOR THE DAY.
BEAM

OH, OF COURSE!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE UP TO!

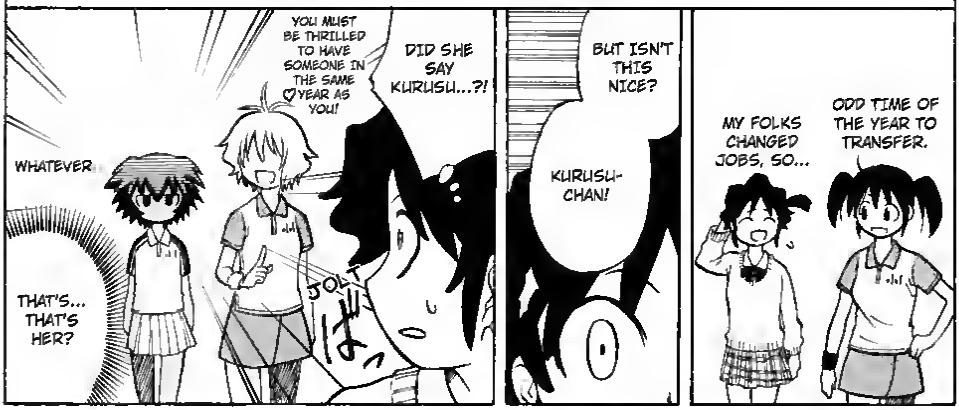

GET READY FOR THIS, SHIRATAMA SOFT TENNIS CLUB!!!
NOW I CAN OPENLY COLLECT DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.
...I'VE DONE IT!!

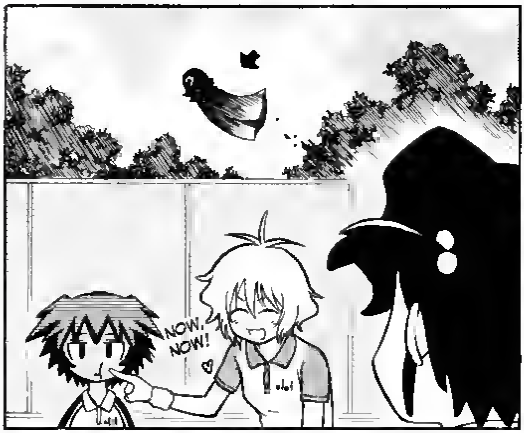

NOW, COME WITH ME.
OH, OF COURSE!
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY...?
HUH?

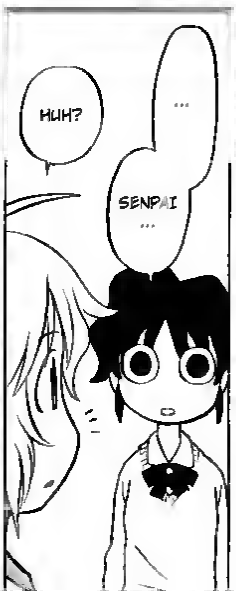
WHA...?!
NEW CLUB MEMBER?!
♡
EVERYONE BE NICE TO HER.
MEET OUR NEW CLUB MEMBER, HIRATSUKA YURA-SAN!

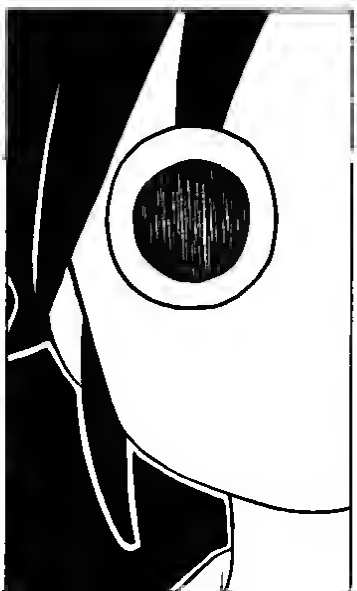
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
AND SO...

THE ANSWER BECOMES FOGGY

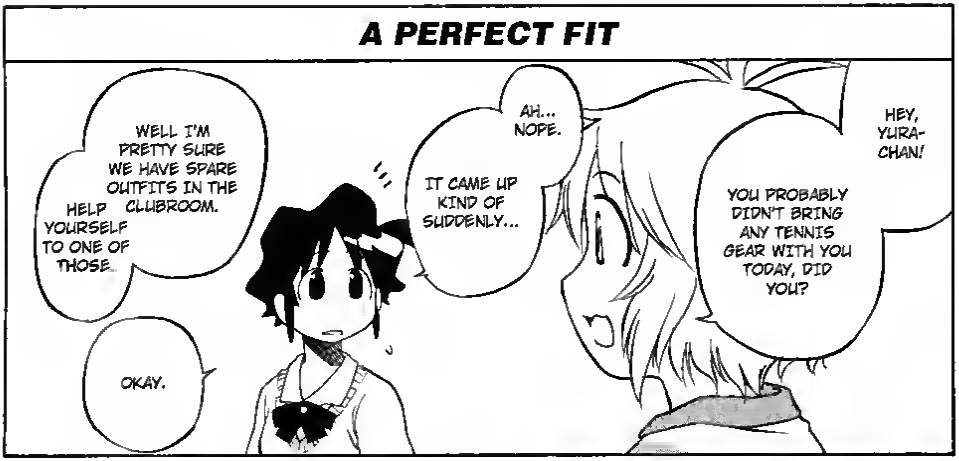

YOU MUST BE THRILLED TO HAVE SOMEONE IN THE SAME ♡YEAR AS YOU!
DID SHE SAY KURUSU...?!
WHATEVER
THAT'S... THAT'S HER?
JOLT
BUT ISN'T THIS NICE?
KURUSU-CHAN!
MY FOLKS CHANGED JOBS, SO...
ODD TIME OF THE YEAR TO TRANSFER.

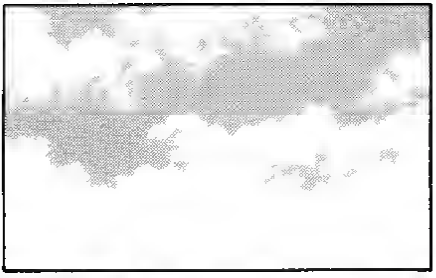






A PERFECT FIT

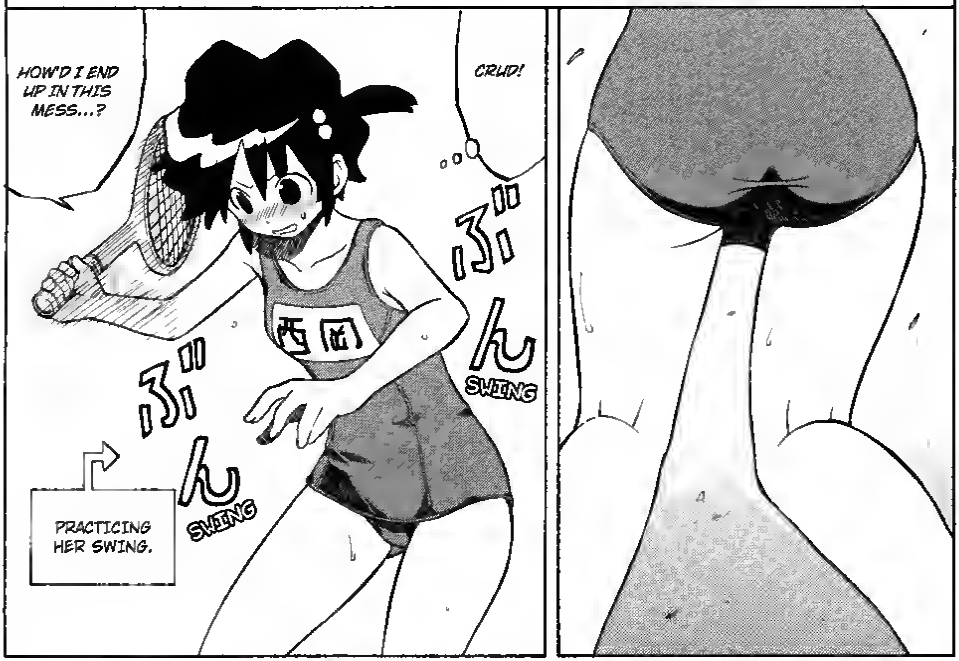

HEY, YURA-CHAN!
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T BRING ANY TENNIS GEAR WITH YOU TODAY, DID YOU?
AH... NOPE.
IT CAME UP KIND OF SUDDENLY...
WELL I'M PRETTY SURE WE HAVE SPARE OUTFITS IN THE CLUBROOM. HELP YOURSELF TO ONE OF THOSE.
OKAY.



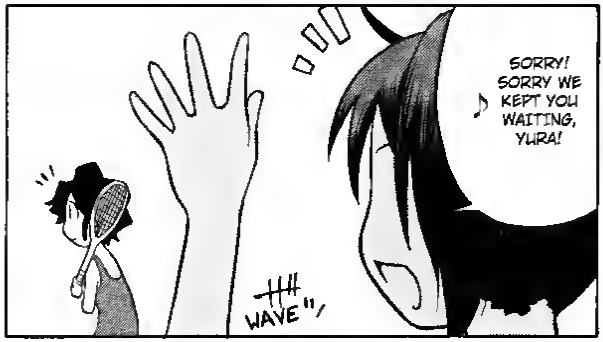
EVEN IF THE SPARE UNIFORMS WERE EATEN BY BUGS...
OH, MY!
...THIS IS A LITTLE MUCH, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
NAH, IT'S PERFECT.
IT'S EASY TO MOVE IN IN SOME WAYS YOU COULD SAY IT'S IDEAL.

SWIMSUIT. NISHIOKA

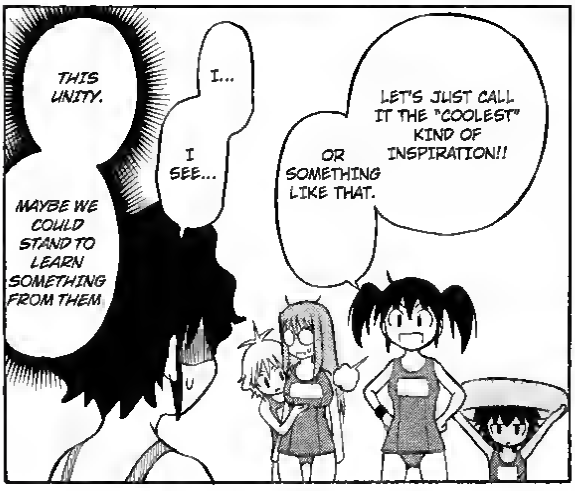
AN UNEXPECTED CHOICE



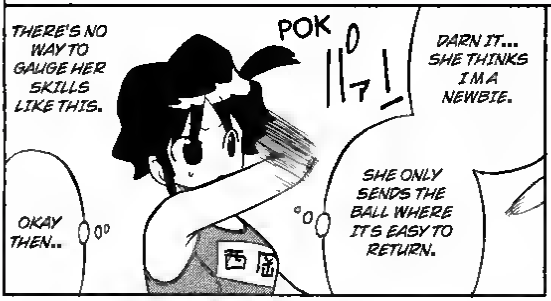
SWIMSUIT: NISHIOKA



SWIMSUITS: HARUKAZE AKIYAMA SAWANATSU KURUSU

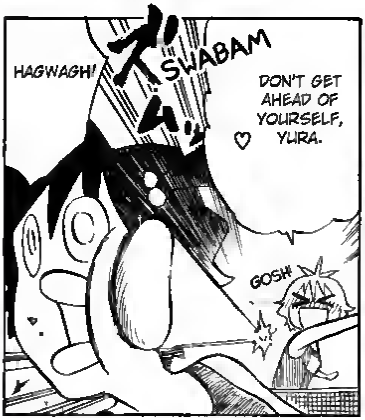

THIS UNITY.
I...
I SEE...
MAYBE WE COULD STAND TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEM.
LET'S JUST CALL IT THE "COOLEST" KIND OF INSPIRATION!!
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

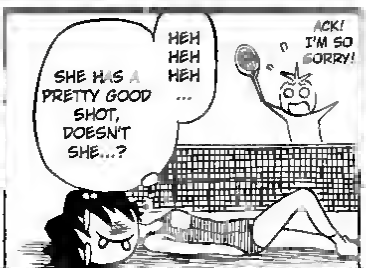
TAUGHT BY THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS


THERE'S NO WAY TO GAUGE HER SKILLS LIKE THIS.
POK
パァ!
DARN IT... SHE THINKS I'M A NEWBIE.
SHE ONLY SENDS THE BALL WHERE IT'S EASY TO RETURN.
OKAY THEN..
西岡

SWIMSUIT: NISHIOKA

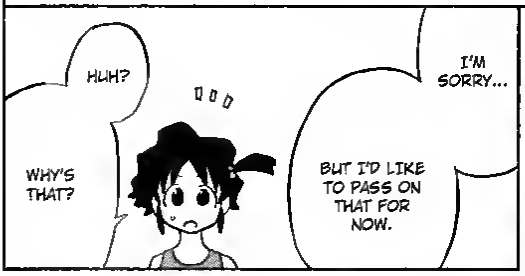
SWIMSUIT: HARUKAZE

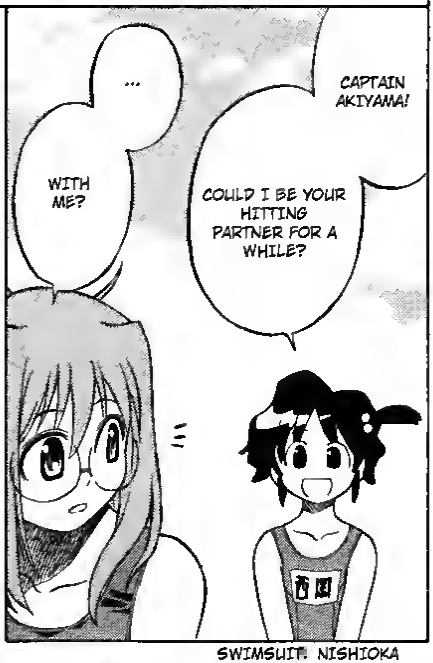


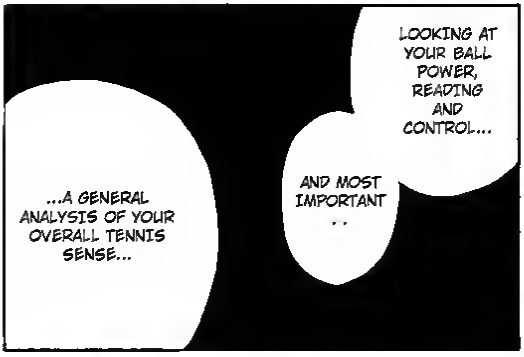


KURUSU-STYLE PLAY
OH...
BA-BOUNCE
ズバーン
BA-BOUNCE
ズバーン
THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T LIFT YOUR CHEST TOO MUCH.
WHOA!
ズバババババババ
BA-BOUNCE
BA-BOUNCE
ズバーン
I GET THE FEELING UNDERESTIMATING THAT GIRL COULD RESULT IN SOME SERIOUS PAIN...!
I.. I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT...
HEY! LISTEN TO ME, WOULD YOU?!
OW!
ズダダダダ
DO-DO-DO-DO-DO-DO-DOHNG
BAM
!!!
SWIMSUIT: NATSU NISHIOKA

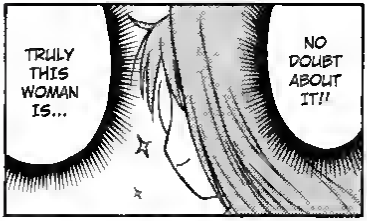
HER REMAINING PRIDE

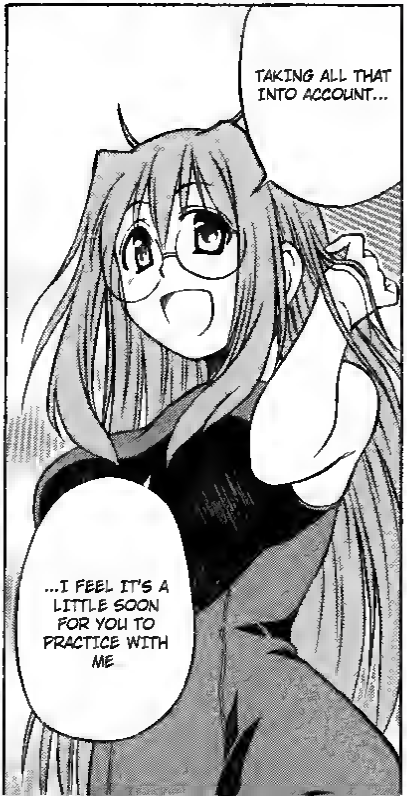


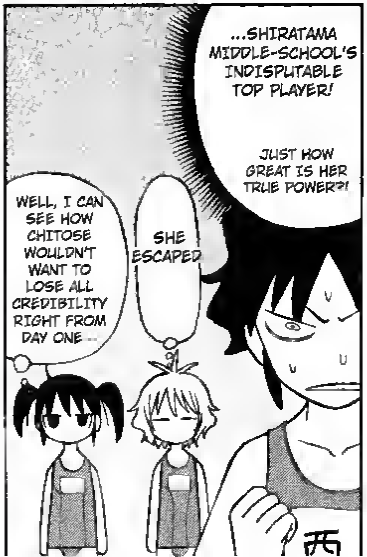




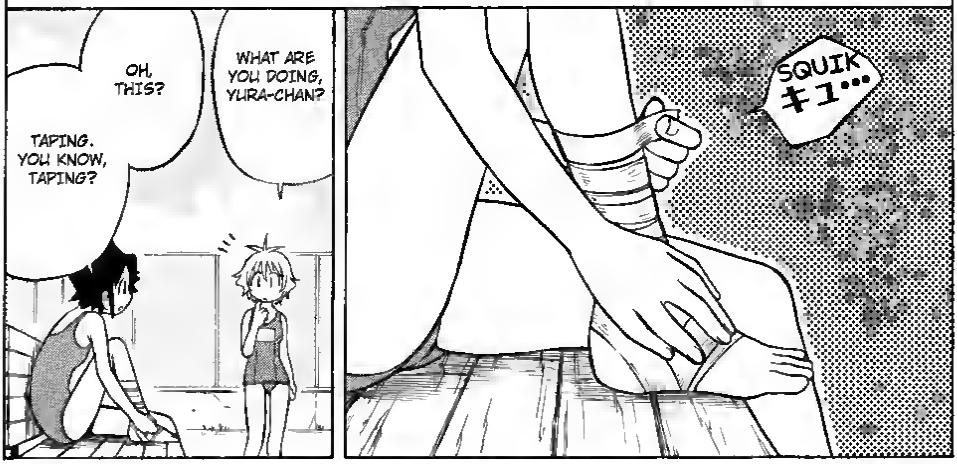
SWIMSUIT: NISHIOKA






...SHIRATAMA MIDDLE-SCHOOL'S INDISPUTABLE TOP PLAYER!
JUST HOW GREAT IS HER TRUE POWER?!
SHE ESCAPED
WELL, I CAN SEE HOW CHITOSE WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE ALL CREDIBILITY RIGHT FROM DAY ONE...

ADVICE FROM THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS

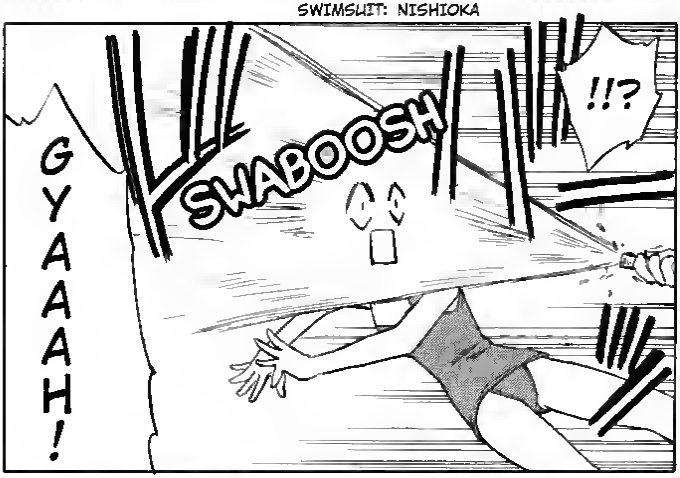


...
SOUNDS LIKE IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE MORE DANGEROUS...?
IT COULD JUST PROVOKE MATTERS.
I'M SORRY. I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

TERRIFYINGLY COUNTING HER CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH

YOUR BUTT IS DROPPING AGAIN!
PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO IT!!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, BUT...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE EVEN DOING?!
COME ON, YURA!!
BRACE YOUR LEGS JUST A LITTLE MORE!
WHAT KIND OF PRACTICE IS THIS?!
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SWIMSUIT. SAWANATSU
WE'RE PRACTICING TEAM POSES. DUH.
IF WE WIN AND CAN'T DO A COOL TEAM POSE IT'D BE TOTALLY LAME, RIGHT?
NOPE. NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, THIS IS FANTASTICALLY LAME.
BUT THE CONFIDENCE WITH WHICH THEY SAY THEY'RE GOING TO WIN...
THEIR MENTAL DISCIPLINE IS AT AS HIGH A LEVEL AS OURS?!
WE CAN'T TAKE THESE GUYS LIGHTLY.

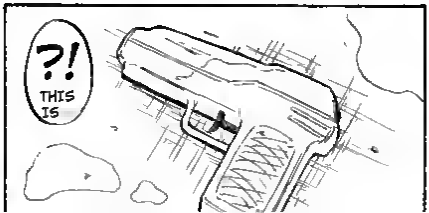
I'VE WATCHED SHIRATAMA ALL DAY TODAY
THIS IS THE FIRST SCHOOL I'VE HAD SUCH A HARD TIME GETTING A HANDLE ON.
HMM...
SWIMSUIT: NISHIOKA


GYAAAH!
SWABOOSH
!!?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REPORT THIS TO THE CAPTAIN...?
HUH?

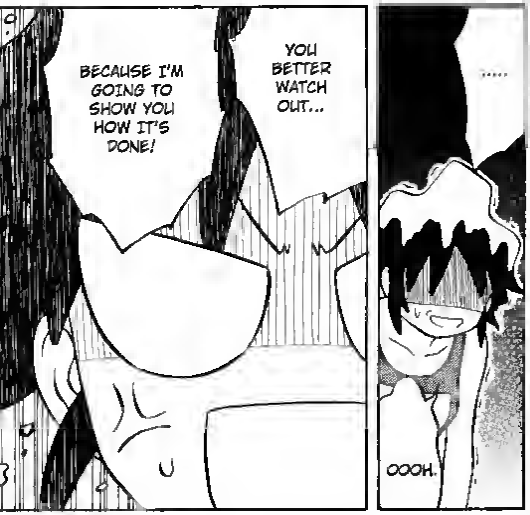
WE'RE ALL WEARING SWIMSUITS ANYWAY.
A WATER FIGHT, SILLY!
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE GET SOAKING WET!
SCRUNCH

...
WAI--!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?


?!
THIS IS

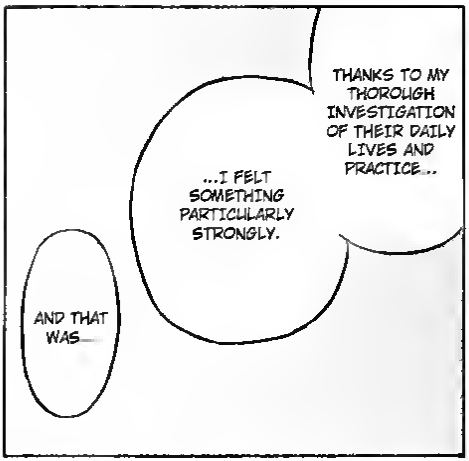
THAT'S THE SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFT TENNIS CLUB MOTTO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, YOU BETTER FOLLOW THROUGH!
RIGHT ON!
SO, YUKA-CHAN...

SWIMSUIT: SAWANATSU AKIYAMA USU



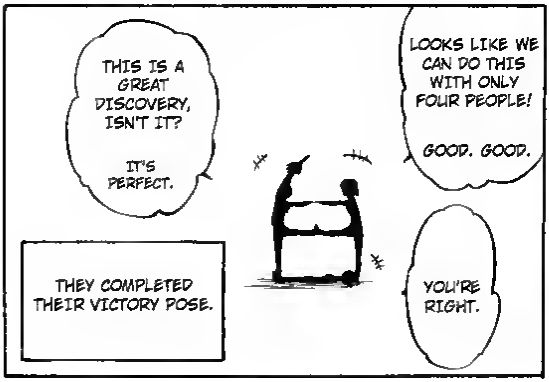
SWIMSUIT NISHI
SAWANATSU HARUKAZE
KURUSU
くるす

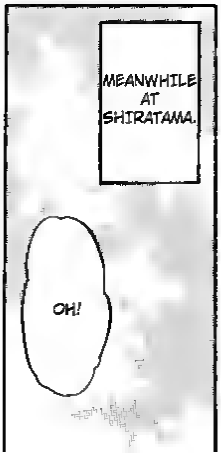
THE NEXT DAY
SO?


THANKS TO MY THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THEIR DAILY LIVES AND PRACTICE...
...I FELT SOMETHING PARTICULARLY STRONGLY.
AND THAT WAS...

YUP!
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING...
...ABOUT SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL, YURA?
YOU BET I DID.

"THANKS FOR ALL THE FUN TIMES!"
THAT'S IT!


THIS IS A GREAT DISCOVERY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S PERFECT.
LOOKS LIKE WE CAN DO THIS WITH ONLY FOUR PEOPLE!
GOOD. GOOD.
THEY COMPLETED THEIR VICTORY POSE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

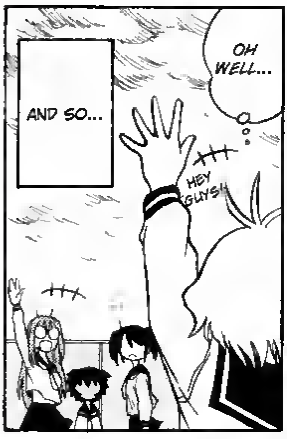

MEANWHILE AT SHIRATAMA.
OH!

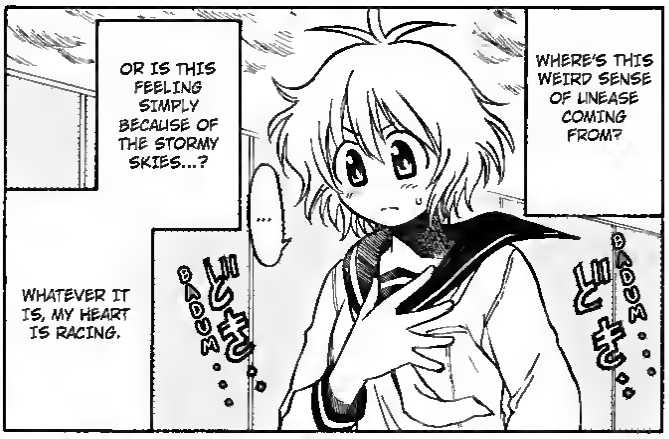
THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT OF YOUR INVESTIGATION, HUH?!
BUT!!

第5ゲーム もーれつっ
Game 5 – Fierce

EEEK!
JEEZ.
WHAT A MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE BREEZE
ヒューオオオ…
SWOOOSH
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME TODAY
I AM HARUKAZE ASUNA.
HI, EVERYBODY!
WITH MY HEART ALWAYS FILLED WITH LOTS OF CHEER AND JUST A LITTLE LUST...

RIGHT NOW, IT'S LUNCH BREAK.
OUR CLUB ADVISOR, MISHIMAGI-SENSEI, HAS CALLED US OUT TO THE TENNIS COURT AND I'M ON MY WAY, BUT...
WHAT'S THIS SUDDEN SUMMONS ABOUT?
WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH US...?


AND SO...
OH WELL...
HEY GUYS!


WHERE'S THIS WEIRD SENSE OF UNEASE COMING FROM?
...
BADUM...
BADUM...
OR IS THIS FEELING SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE STORMY SKIES...?
WHATEVER IT IS, MY HEART IS RACING.

...IS THE ANSWER.
HEY, MISSHI.
HI, SENSEI!
BUT HERE...

...THE TRUE CAUSE OF MY POUNDING HEART.
LATER I WOULD COME TO LEARN ..
THEY ALL ACTUALLY CAME.
WOW.

WE'RE DOING A SINGLES LEAGUE MATCH?
BUT WHY GO TO THE TROUBLE OF MAKING IT A LEAGUE MATCH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WE HAVEN'T DONE THOSE OFTEN.
SINGLES, HUH...
HMM ..
THERE'S SINGLES IN THE NEXT TOURNAMENT...
YEAH.
SO THIS IS PRACTICE FOR THAT.
OBVIOUSLY, IT'S...
"WHY," YOU ASK? DON'T YOU GET IT...?
HMM...

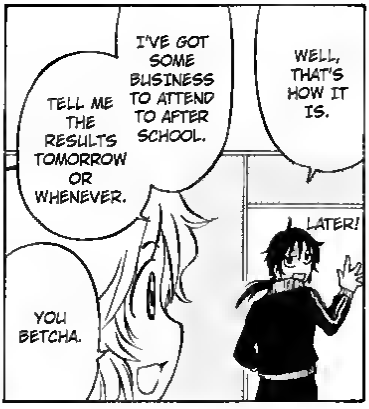
IS THAT ALL...?
AH...
AND TO DETERMINE THE STARTING PLACEMENTS.
IT'S TO DECIDE THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE TOURNAMENT.

EEEH!?
...THAT'S A JOKE, OF COURSE.
SO WE CAN TELL THE PERSON IN LAST PLACE WHAT A USELESS WASTE OF SPACE THEY ARE.

...WILL DETERMINE THE RANKING OF THE CLUB MEMBERS, RIGHT?
♪
THE RESULTS OF THIS LEAGUE MATCH...

I SEE...
SO THAT MEANS, BASICALLY...

A LEAGUE MATCH, HUH.
OKAY!!
I'M GONNA PLAY MY HARDEST SO I DON'T LOSE...
TURN


WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS.
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AFTER SCHOOL.
TELL ME THE RESULTS TOMORROW OR WHENEVER.
YOU BETCHA.
LATER!

BLINK

HOOOOOAAAARR
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
...TO YOU ALL--

MY PRIDE AS CAPTAIN...
HUFF!
は
HUFF!
は
THE REASON I EXIST...

RANKING
HISS!
ふ
THE ABSOLUTE ACE...
HISS!

RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴ..
...
IT'S JUST A GAME, RIGHT ...?
HA HAH...

..
ゴオオオ
GWOOOSH
OVER-THROWING THOSE ABOVE ME..

WEATHER LINK

WHOOOOOSH
...HAD BEGUN TO BLOW THROUGH SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL'S SOFT TENNIS CLUB
A STORM..
YES... IT WAS NOW TRULY AS IF A GREAT TEMPEST...

HOW CAN SOMEONE WHO'D GIVE IN TO A LITTLE RAIN...
...EVER DEFEAT THE ENEMY WHEN THE REAL BATTLE COMES?!
YIKES.
I THINK WE SHOULD REALLY CALL IT OFF FOR TODAY...
YOU MORON!!
SWOOOSH
...ISN'T THE MATCH OVER, RIGHT THEN AND THERE?
IF YOU GIVE UP...
AFTER ALL, OUR ONE AIM...
CLENCH
...IS VICTORY AT NATIONALS!!
...SAY...
WHOA!
HEY, CHITOSE-SAN, YOU SAY SOMETHING, TOO.
I I DON'T REALLY THINK THOSE TWO THINGS ARE...
SHWOOM
IS THAT ACTUALLY WHAT SHE'S AIMING FOR...?
HER...?
THAT AGAIN...
..
WHOO
OSH
...JUST AS KOTONE-CHAN SAID.
IT'S CER-TAINLY...

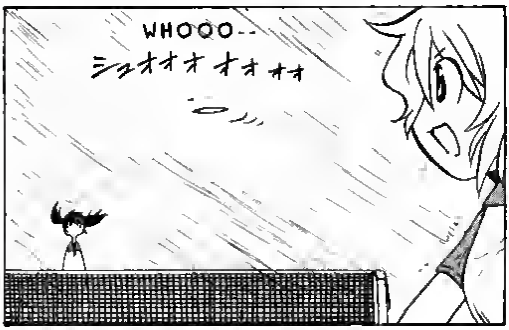
A TACTICIAN WHO KNOWS HER PLACE

	ことね	ちとせ	あすな	くるす
ことね		-2		
ちとせ	2-		2-	2-
あすな		-2		
くるす		-2		

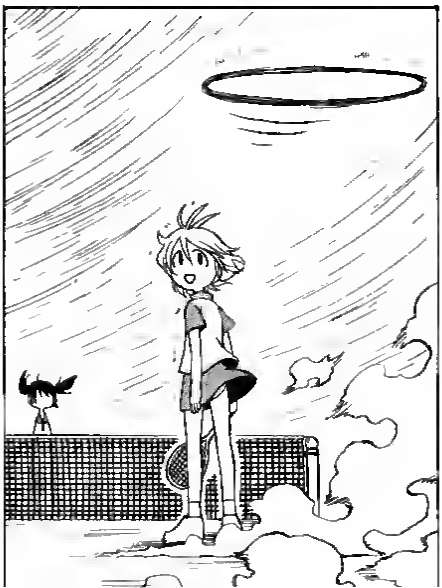
KOTONE CHITOSE ASUNA KURUSU

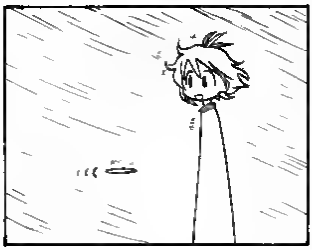
GO WITH A CUT

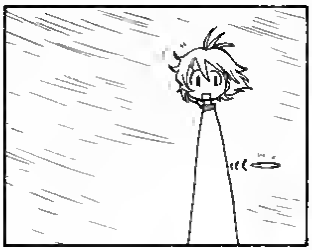
DROP
IF I USE A CUT SERVE...
I ONLY LET GO OF THE BALL THE MOMENT BEFORE I HIT IT.
THERE'S NO FEAR OF MY TOSS GETTING BLOWN AWAY!!!
THIS IS IT!!
HA!
I GOT IT!
WHOOSH
...
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IF I TOSS THE BALL UP, THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE IT'LL GO...
WHAT TO DO..?!


WHOOO--

HERE GOES NOTHING!
ALL RIGHT..!
THWACK!

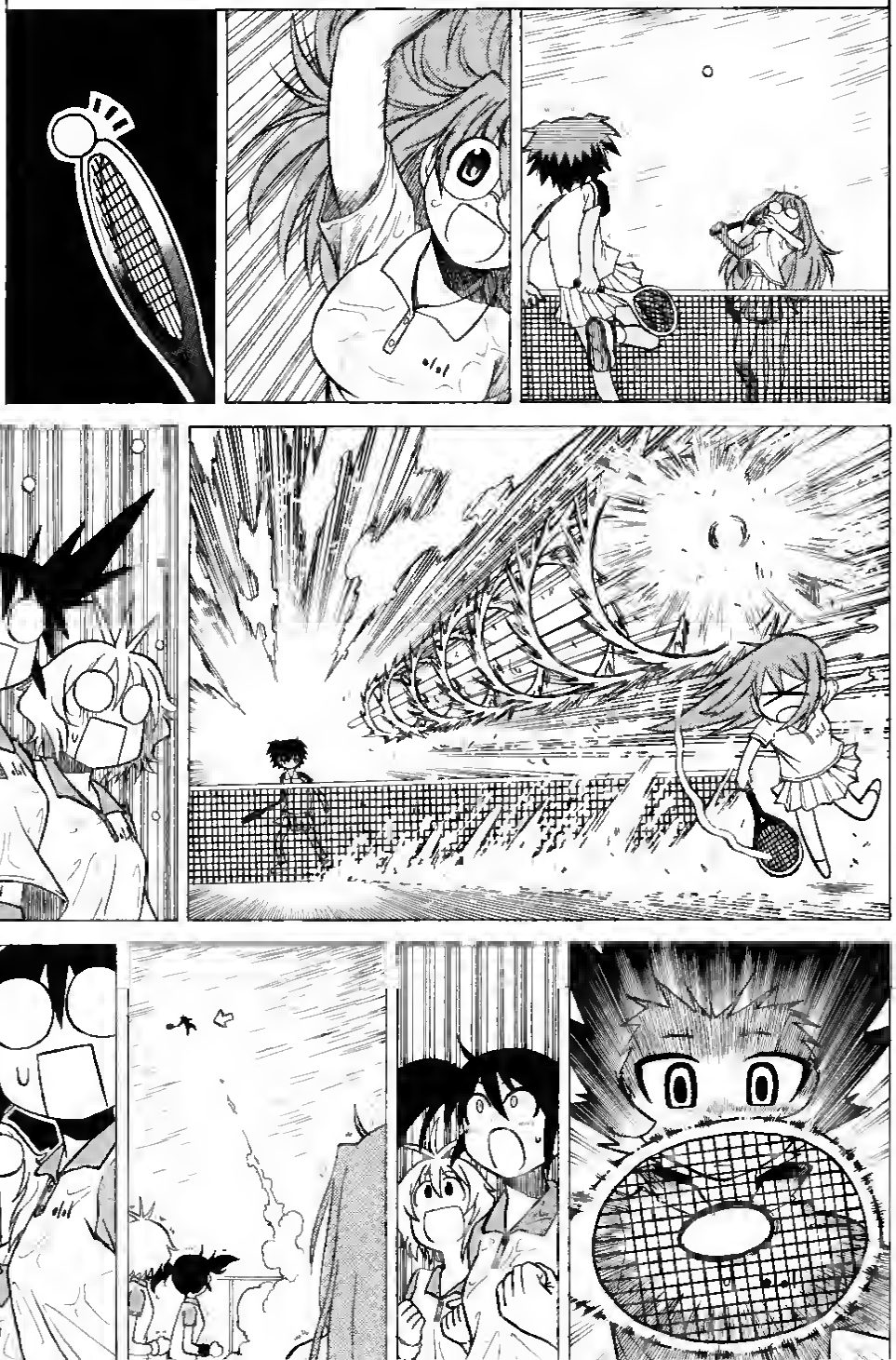






--OOOH...
SPIN

THE STORM'S BLESSING AND DESTRUCTIVE POWER



IT CAME FROM THE SKY
SWAP
ちな
LET'S HURRY AND SEARCH FOR...
ER... ANYWAY..
THIS IS WHY RUNTS ARE USELESS...
KU... KU-KU-KURUSU-CHAN GOT BLOWN AWAY!
YEEP!
A FISH...
AND FURTHER-MORE!
WIGGLE WIGGLE
ギョギョー!
THIS IS--!
FLOP
ビチ
ビチ FLIP
SOME-THING FELL FROM THE SKY...
...?
THIS..
!!!
RUMBLE
THAT'S YOUR FIRST PRIORITY?!
WHAT A CATCH! ♡
WOO HOO!
A BLACK BASS!!
THIS DARK BROWN BODY AND LARGE EYES AND MOUTH...
THIS IS WHITE-FLESHED FISH AT ITS FINEST!

IT CAME FROM THE SKY 2
WHAT'S THAT?
IT LOOKS KINDA BIG...
EH...?
WAI--
HOLD ON A SEC...
THAT SILHOUETTE ...
FLASH
AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE SURPRISED NO MATTER WHAT COMES FALLING ..
HUH?
I'VE HEARD OF FISH FALLING FROM THE SKY DURING STORMS BEFORE...
RUMBLE
OW!
BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS ...
IT CAN'T BE...
IT...
GYAAAAH!
CALM DOWN ASUNA!!!
IT'S A SHARK!!
SHARK!

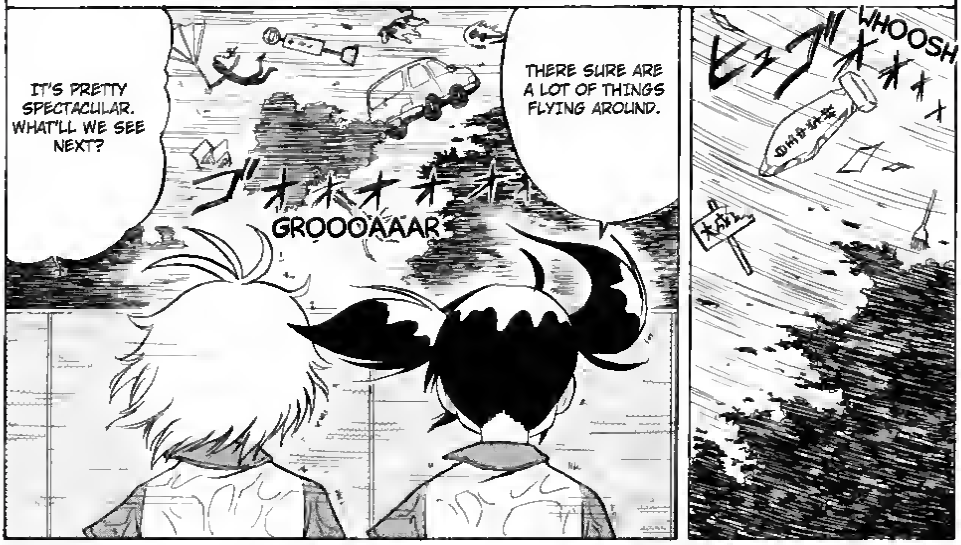
THIS IS THE TENNIS COURT.
AND I'M GONNA SHOW HIM...
THAT'S ONLY IN THE OCEAN!!
IN THE END...
SHARKS ARE STRONG...
THEY'RE DEFINITELY STRONG, BUT..
WHOOSH
HIS SEA SMARTS WON'T GET HIM ANYWHERE OUT HERE!!

BAMPF
...
KO...
!!?
KA-POW
KOTONE-CHAAAN!!
SLAM

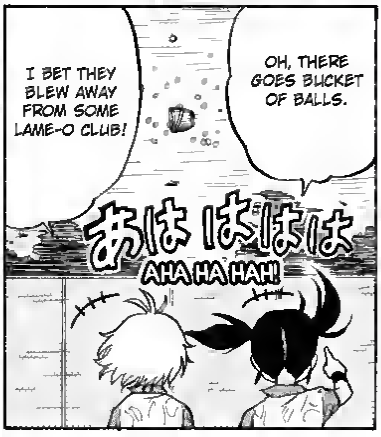
SIGN: A GREAT SUCCESS

SIGN: SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

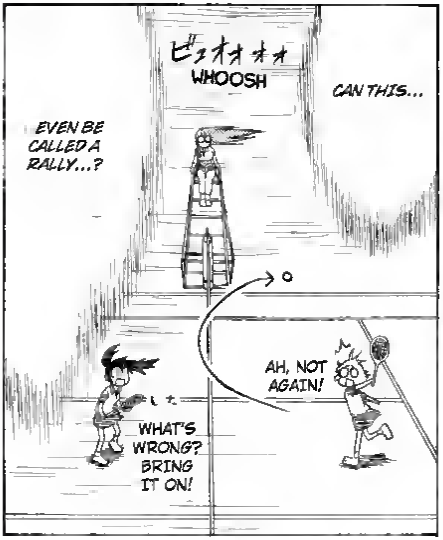
JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'RE FINE



SIGN: A GREAT SUCC--

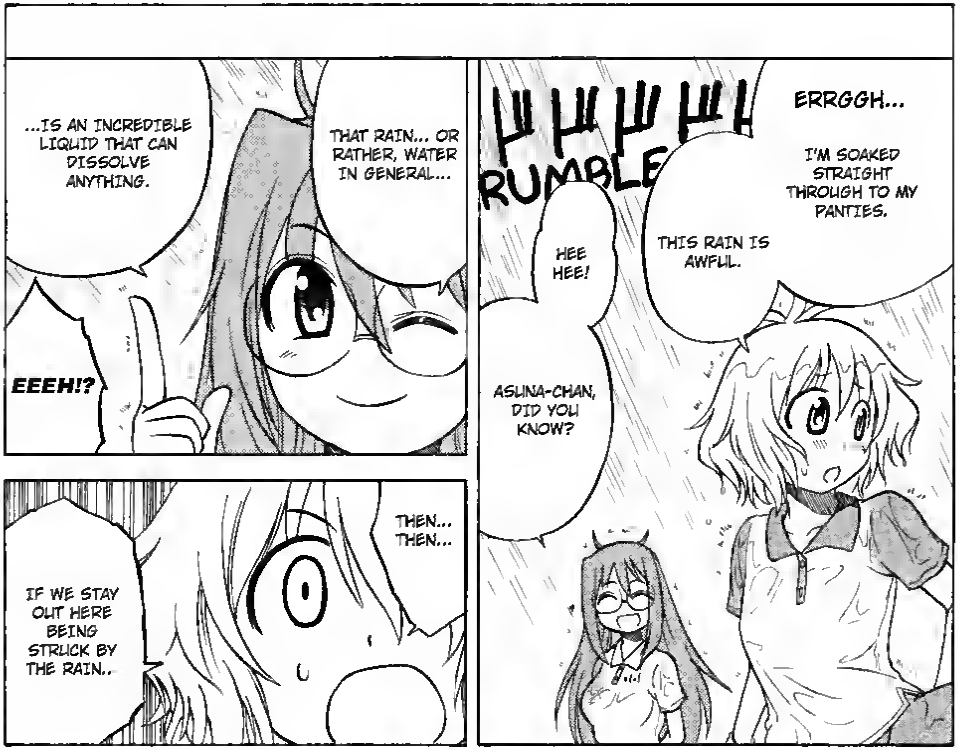


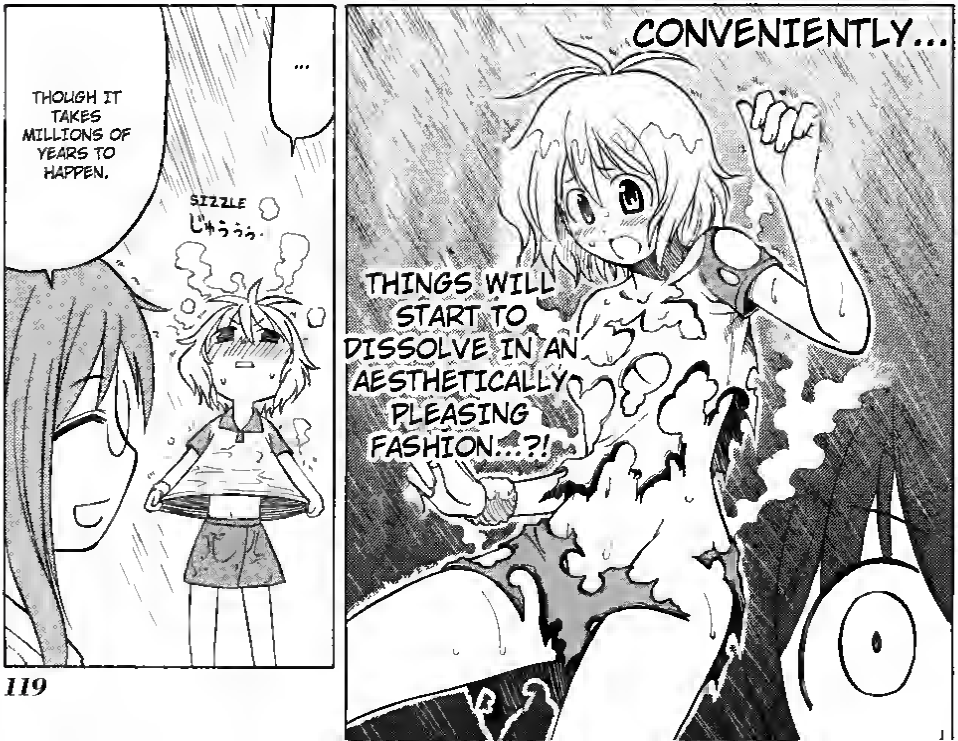
EASY!
THWACK
KUH!
POK
NOT DONE YET!!
SLAM

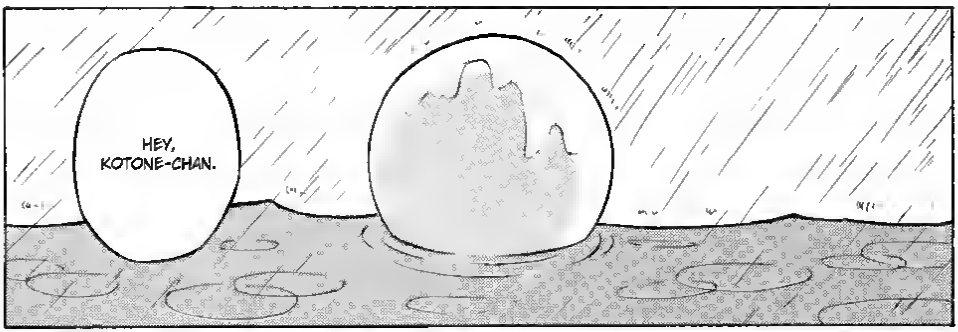

ビュオオオオ
WHOOSH
CAN THIS...
EVEN BE CALLED A RALLY...?
AH, NOT AGAIN!
WHAT'S WRONG? BRING IT ON!

WHAT A LONG RALLY.
IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR FIVE MINUTES NOW.
BUT.

TAKE THAT!
HI-YAH!
THERE!
BOING
THUNK
THUNK
...


...IS AN INCREDIBLE LIQUID THAT CAN DISSOLVE ANYTHING.
THAT RAIN... OR RATHER, WATER IN GENERAL...
EEEH!?
RUMBLE
ERRGGH...
I'M SOAKED STRAIGHT THROUGH TO MY PANTIES.
THIS RAIN IS AWFUL.
HEE HEE!
ASUNA-CHAN, DID YOU KNOW?
THEN... THEN...
IF WE STAY OUT HERE BEING STRUCK BY THE RAIN..


...
THOUGH IT TAKES MILLIONS OF YEARS TO HAPPEN.
SIZZLE じゅうぅぅ.
CONVENIENTLY...
THINGS WILL START TO DISSOLVE IN AN AESTHETICALLY PLEASING FASHION...?!

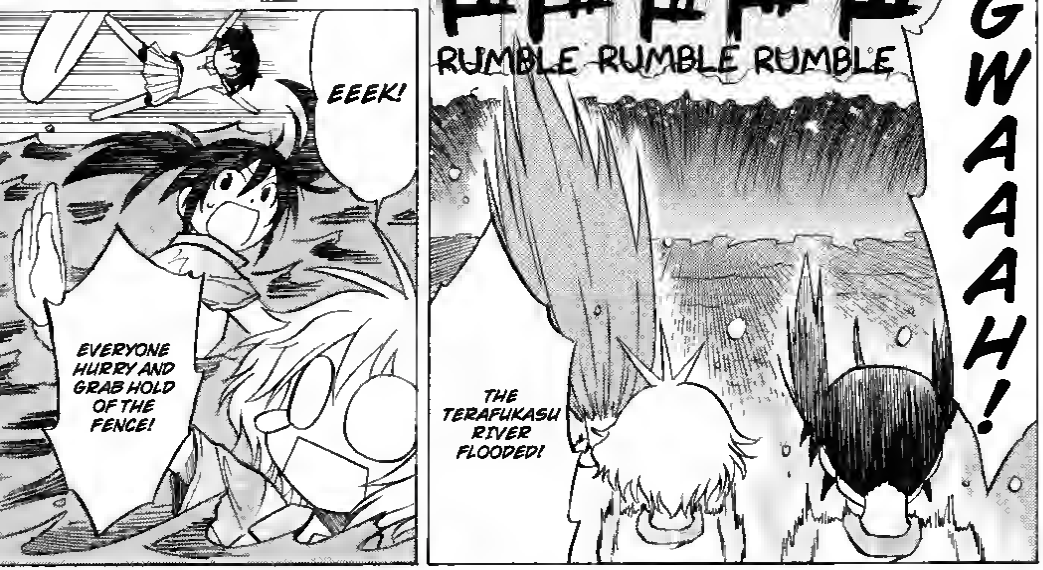

HEY, KOTONE-CHAN.

SHOULDN'T WE REALLY CALL IT A DAY...?
AT THIS RATE WE'RE GOING TO END UP THE WATER POLO CLUB..
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP THE BALLS FROM HITTING THE GROUND! GOT IT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING!

!!?

WHAT'S THAT...?
RUMBLE
THAT'S A STRANGE SOUND...

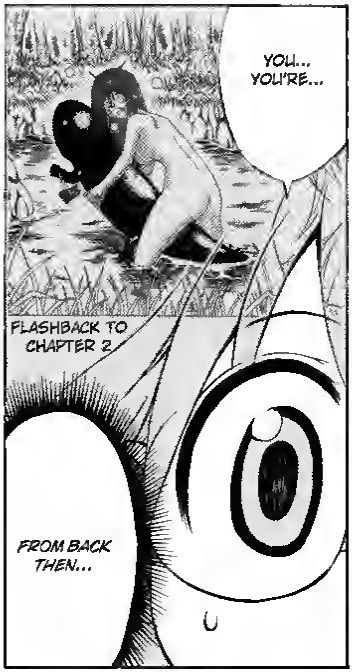
WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS OUR SPIRIT, ISN'T IT?
RUMBLE
WITH FIGHTING SPIRIT, WE CAN DO ANYTH--!
HUH?

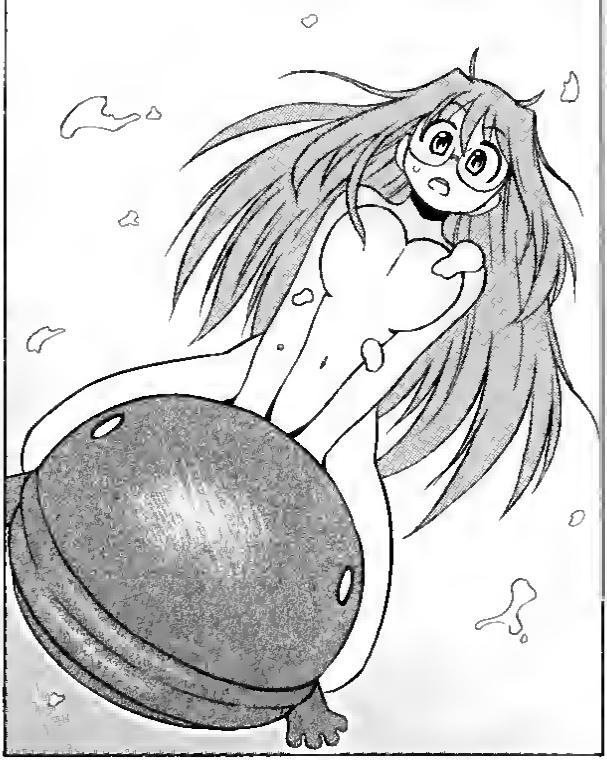

EEEK!
EVERYONE HURRY AND GRAB HOLD OF THE FENCE!
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
GWAAAH!
THE TERAFUKASU RIVER FLOODED!

?!
WHAT IS IT?!
KO... KOTONE-CHAN!
LOOK!!

THEN...
CHITOSE-SAN WILL BE...
IDIOT!!
IF YOU JUMP IN THERE YOU'LL JUST GET SWEPT AWAY TOO!
WE... WE HAVE TO SAVE HER...
BUT...
GRAB
WHAT?!
CHITOSE-SAN DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME AND GOT CAUGHT BY THE CURRENT...!!
ぶくぶく
ぶくぶく

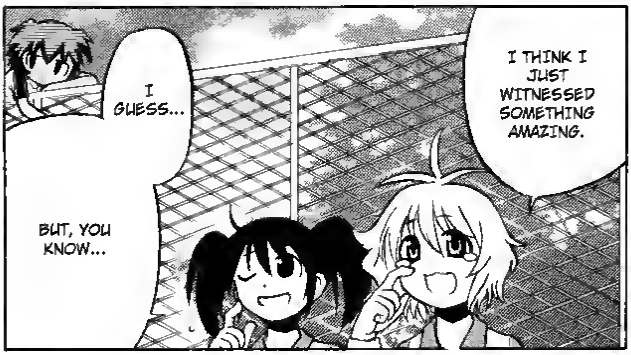
WHOA. .

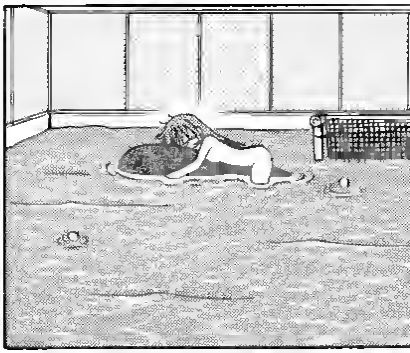

YOU... YOU'RE...
FLASHBACK TO CHAPTER 2
FROM BACK THEN...



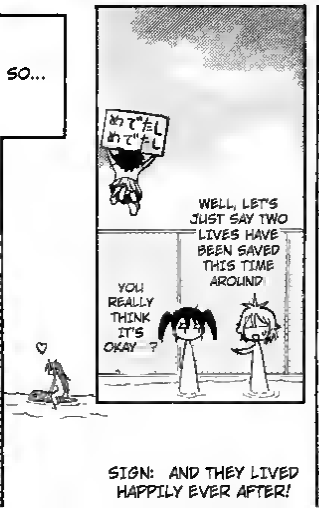
WHY .. DID YOU SAVE ME...?
BUT WHY...?
AFTER WHAT I TRIED TO DO TO YOU...
... YOU STILL...?

NOW I CAN'T SEE YOU AS FOOD ANYMORE!
AFTER YOU'VE DONE THIS FOR ME, I...


I GUESS...
BUT, YOU KNOW...
I THINK I JUST WITNESSED SOMETHING AMAZING.



SO...
RESULTS WERE ABOUT WHAT I PREDICTED, SO I WAS RELIEVED.
INCIDENTALLY, THE NEXT DAY WE RE-DID THE LEAGUE MATCH.
1位
2位
3位
4位


めでたし
めでたし
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY TWO LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED THIS TIME AROUND
YOU REALLY THINK IT'S OKAY ?
SIGN: AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

THIS MEANS THAT...
...CHITOSE REALLY WAS PLANNING TO EAT IT BACK THEN, WASN'T SHE.
... YOU'RE RIGHT.

第(だい)6ゲーム おでかけっ
GAME 6 - GOING OUT

WAAAAAAH!!
WAAAH... IT'S MUH... MY RACKET IS...
WHA.. WHAT'S WRONG, ASUNA?!
ARE YOU HURT?!
TUP TUP TUP
ｱﾞｱﾞｱﾞ…
AÀA
AAAH!
RACKET..?
OH...

I HEARD A SOFT TENNIS SPECIALTY SHOP OPENED UP RECENTLY.
ソフトテニス専門店
世界一安いソフト
IF WE GO THERE, I'M SURE YOU CAN FIND A NEW RACKET TO LOVE.

SIGNS: SOFT TENNIS SPECIALTY SHOP WORLD'S MOST INEXPENSIVE SOFT

TOGETHER WITH MISHIMAGI-SENSEI...
OH, SHE'S BACK TO REALITY.
JUMP
...?
...
WHAT?
YES.

DEEPLY INTERESTED...

WHA...?
BUT THAT'S NORMAL, RIGHT?
ISN'T IT NICE, KOTONE-CHAN?
COACH IS COMING TOO.
IT'S HIS DUTY AS OUR ADVISER. PART OF THE JOB.
WHAT'S THAT SMIRK FOR?

SIGN: NCHIKU BOOKS

MAGAZINE:
NOW YOU CAN CAPTURE HIS HEART
OUR TOP PICKS FOR SPRING

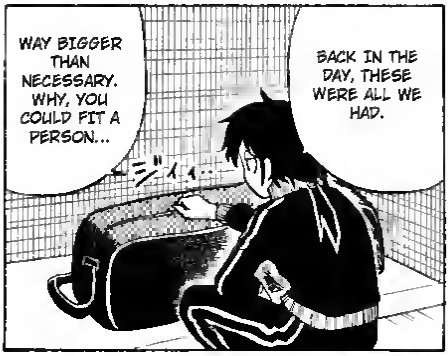
PURE-HEARTED PASSION
THEN LET'S GET IN THE CAR AND...
HEY, YOU'RE HERE.
HUH?
HI COACH!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
NOPE, LOOK OVER THERE...
SHE NOT COMING?
WHAT HAPPENED TO KOTONE?
...
HEY...
WHAT'S UP?
AH!
THERE SHE IS.

YOU LOOK LIKE A TOTAL "CLITE GIRL" NOW.
VROOOM
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU...
I'M KIND OF SHOCKED.
BUT WOW...
A NEW HAIRSTYLE REALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
?
...
KOTONE-CHA--
I MEAN...
...
ACK! KOTONE-CHAN'S LOST IT!
HEY... HEY, KOTONE!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
MYARGH!
MUSS
MUSS
MUSS MUSS
AAAAAAH!!
!!?
SO...
EVERYTHING WENT BACK TO NORMAL.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT...?
IN THE END...

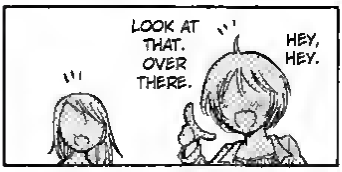
SHOP OF DREAMS
IT'S HUUUUGE!
THERE'S A SECOND FLOOR, TOO.
♪
WAAH!
HERE WE ARE!
SURE ARE.
SPECIALTY SHOPS LIKE THIS ARE A RARITY NATIONWIDE.
SUPER 5-5
IT REALLY IS FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON SOFT TENNIS GOODS.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE.
UMM...
COULD YOU TWO KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN?
THE POOR SHOPKEEPER IS
OH, I GET IT.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS
♪
BECAUSE I BET THERE'LL BE A GOING-OUT-OF-BUSINESS SALE NEXT MONTH!!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE IT RUNNING A SOFT TENNIS SPECIALTY SHOP!!
"WHY," YOU ASK?
THAT'S OBVIOUS...
?
WHY'S THAT?
BUT WE SHOULD KEEP OUR PURCHASES TODAY TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.

A PERFECT FIT

WELL, I'LL BE SLEEPING IN THE CAR.
WAKE ME UP WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT GONNA LOOK WITH US?
AWWW!
I'M TIRED FROM THE CONSTANT OVERTIME...
UNLIKE YOU.



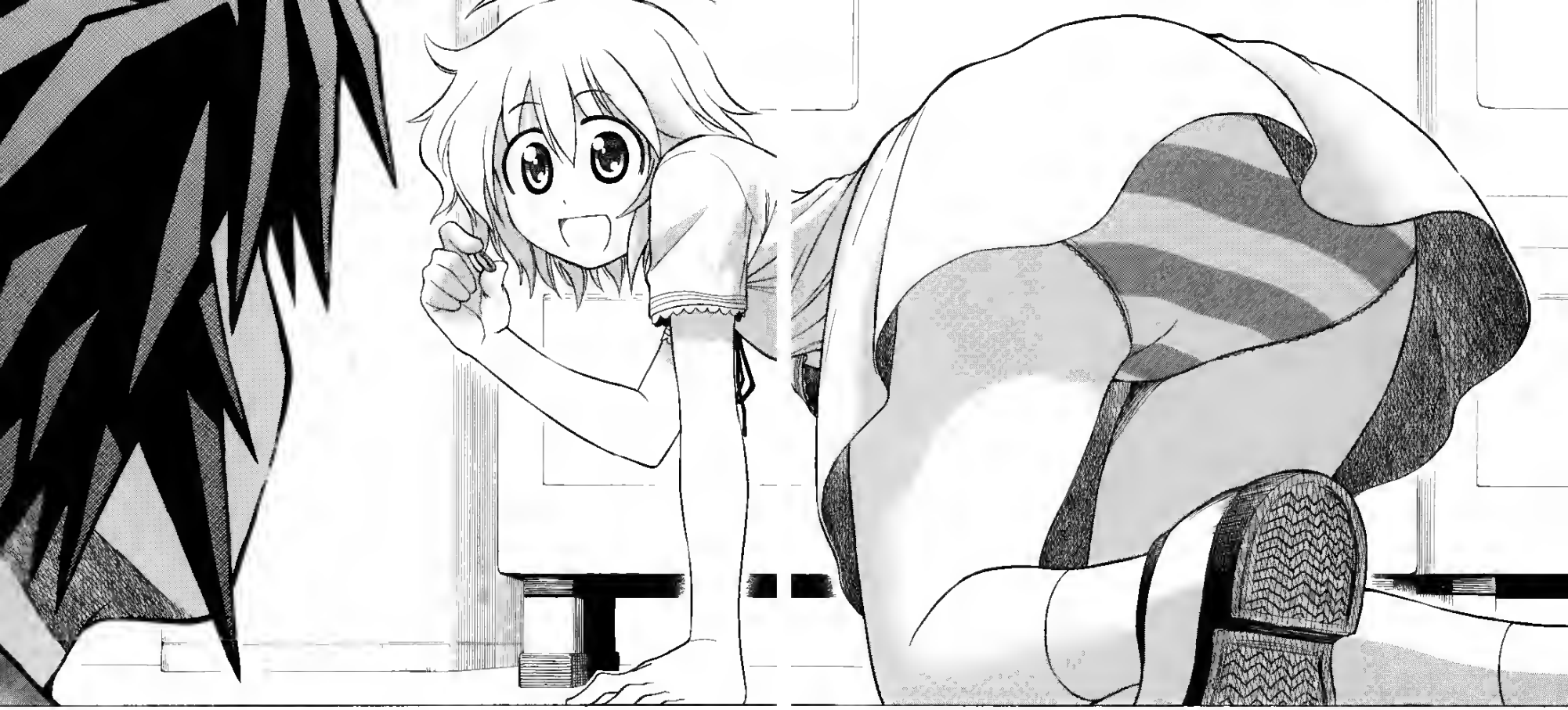
SIGN: BACKPACK



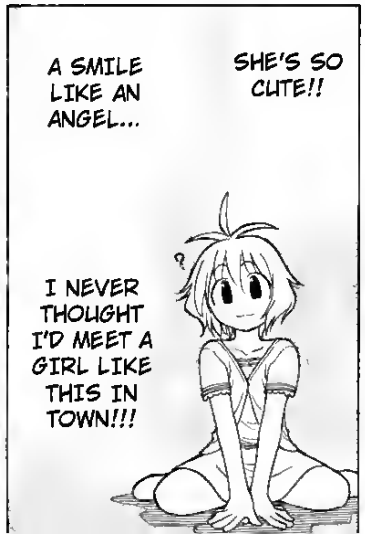
SIGN: PENANCE

CHOOSING A DOMESTIC GUT
NOW THAT I'VE SETTLED ON A RACKET.
GUT
I JUST NEED TO PICK OUT A CUTE GUT..
HUH?
ペタ
YUP!
I'VE DECIDED ON THIS ONE. ♪
カーン
PSHING
I WONDER WHAT MATERIAL WOULD BE BEST...
...
I GUESS SHE'S LOOKING FOR GUT TOO..?
HUH? CHITOSE-SAN?
?!
MAYBE THIN WIRE OR PIANO STRING...
THAT'S PROBABLY BEST...
THIN WIRE OR PIANO STRING?!
スタ TUP
スタ TUP
WHEN USED FOR SLICING
...
TAKE THAT!
...
VEGETABLE GELATIN?

NGH...
JUST.
A BIT FURTHER
AAAAAH!
カラン
ROLL...
コン
CLINK
コン
CLINK
IT WENT UNDER THE VENDING MACHINE
AH!
BUT DO I HAVE THE MONEY FOR IT...?
OKAY...
I DECIDED WHAT TO BUY.
AH!
AH!
ポロ
DROP
HOW MUCH CHANGE DO I HAVE LEFT...?
LET'S SEE...
MAYBE IT'D BE FASTEST TO LOOK DOWN FROM THE SECOND FLOOR..
I'VE TOTALLY LOST TRACK OF MY SENPAI...
SONNUVA--!
カリ
TAK
PHEW...
I'M BEAT...
カリ
TAK
カリ
TAK

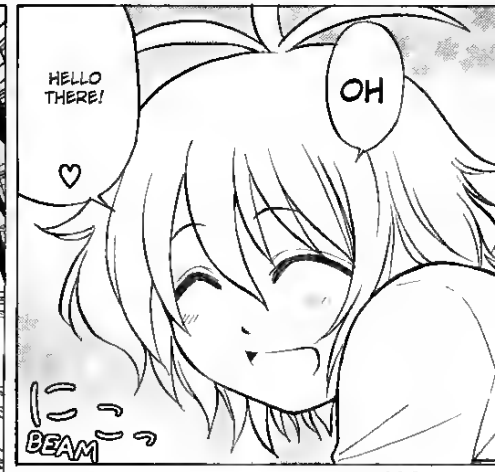


IF I MISS THIS CHANCE, WE MAY NEVER MEET AGAIN.
HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING . . !
UMM...


A SMILE LIKE AN ANGEL...
SHE'S SO CUTE!!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET A GIRL LIKE THIS IN TOWN!!!

HEY...
HELLO...
SHE...

...

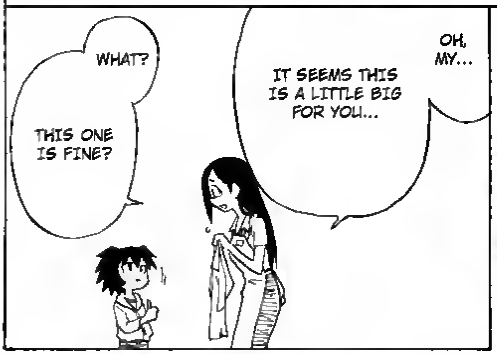

OH
HELLO THERE!
♡
にーっ
BEAM

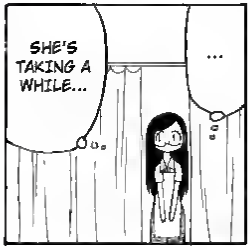
YOU HAVE SUCH LOVELY PANTIES!!
YOU...
I NEED A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION...
OH...
...
THANK YOU.
OH, MY
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN COMPLIMENTED ON MY PANTIES.
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING.
BEAM
THESE ARE ACTUALLY MY FAVORITES, YOU KNOW.
A...
...
A POSITIVE RESPONSE.
IT SEEMS THAT WITH GIRLS...
...STARTING BY PRAISING THEIR CLOTHES IS QUITE EFFECTIVE!!
*NORMALLY IT'S NOT WISE TO START WITH UNDERWEAR, THOUGH.

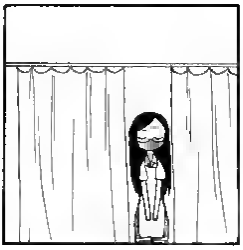
NICKNAME SERENADE
AHA HA, "JUNGLE EMPEROR"?!
THAT'S HILARIOUS
WELL, THEN!
EVERYONE TEASES ME ABOUT IT, CALLING ME "JUNGLE EMPEROR" AND STUFF.
YOU. .YOU THINK SO?
THAT'S A GOOD NAME.
OH...
SO YOU'RE AMACHI LEO-SAN?
DOSANKO PINK PANTHER?!
FOR NOW I'LL BE...
DOSANKO PINK PANTHER!
UMM...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, ASUNA-SAN?
AND YOU KNOW, YOU CAN SHORTEN IT TO "DOSANPIN."
SOUNDS CUTE, RIGHT?
NOTE: A DOSANKO IS A HOKKAIDO GIRL. A DOSANPIN IS A LOW-RANK, DIRT POOR SAMURAI.
COME PLAY WITH ME?
TEE HEE...
I DREAM OF BECOMING A PANTHER-LIKE WOMAN SOMEDAY...
WELL...
I GUESS IT'S NICE TO HAVE A DREAM.
THOUGH IT'S A LITTLE UNEXPECTED...
ENTRANCED

A TOAST TO OUR MEETING
MY LAST ONE GOT ALL BROKEN-UP, SO I CAME TO TOWN TO SEARCH FOR A NEW ONE...
BUT YOU KNOW...
HMM...
ME, HUH?
DOSA... ER, ASUNA-SAN ...
U-UMM...
WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY?
ME?
I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT IT
I MEAN REALLY
ASUNA-SAN...
COULD YOU POSSIBLY MEAN...
I THINK I FINALLY FOUND ONE I LIKE!
!!!
WE... WE OUGHT TO CELEBRATE THAT NEW MEETING!!
?
YEAH, I GUESS.
RIGHT?
ヒュオォ SWOOSH オォ
SEARCH FOR A NEW LOVE
BREAKUP
SOMETHING LIKE THIS ..?
FOUND ONE SHE LIKES

MAGIC ATTACHMENTS





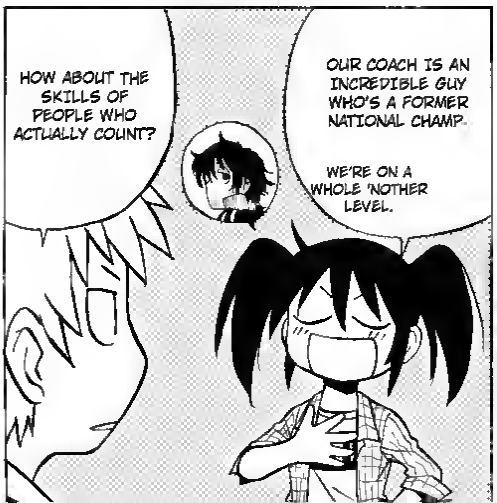


NAMETAG: FUCHITA

FIRST BATTLE FOR DOMINANCE
LET'S SEE.
I, THE GREAT KOTONE, WILL GIVE IT A TEST SWING AND...
REACH
すっ…
OH!
I FOUND A COOL RACKET.
♪
ぱし
GRAB
ぱし
GRAB

WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?!
WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING, TRYING TO TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF?!
NOBODY EVER TAUGHT YOU ANY MANNERS?!
ANYONE COULD SEE THAT I GOT TO IT FIRST!
HANDS OFF!
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
THIS RACKET....
IT WAS HIS FINAL MASTERPIECE!
...WAS MADE BY MY GRANDFATHER, THE RACKET CRAFTSMAN, BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY...
YOU DUMB JERK!!
?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BUY IT IN THE END, SO WHY CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE IT TO HER...
KOTONE-CHAN...
OBVIOUSLY NOT.
TO...
TO THINK THERE WAS SUCH A MOVING TALE BEHIND THIS...
!!!

COMPARING SKILLS


HOW ABOUT THE SKILLS OF PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY COUNT?
OUR COACH IS AN INCREDIBLE GUY WHO'S A FORMER NATIONAL CHAMP.
WE'RE ON A WHOLE 'NOTHER LEVEL.

HAH!
ALL-HOKKAIDO?
AKADAMA'S IS A REALLY STRONG TEAM THAT ADVANCES TO THE ALL-HOKKAIDO TOURNAMENT EVERY YEAR.
BIG TALK FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT ALL THAT SPECIAL
SAY WHAT?!

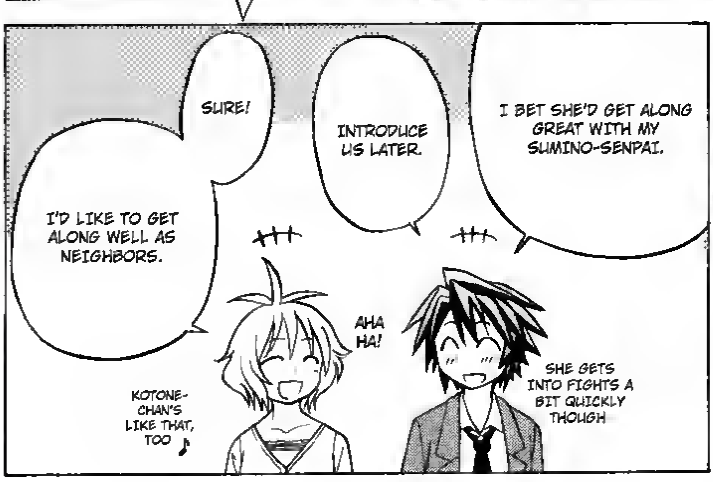
!!
COULD THAT BE...
WELL....
NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ACTUALLY ARE..
IT'S GOING TO BE A REALLY TOUGH TOURNAMENT THIS TIME AROUND.
POINT
SHE'S ONE OF THE LEADING INTELLECT-BASED PLAYERS NATIONALLY.
WHAT A SHARP GLINT OF GENIUS IN HER EYE!
WHAT IS SHE DOING IN HOKKAIDO?
!!!
BAM
THE "SOFT MAESTRO OF CHIBA"...
IBITSU OSHIKO!!
HMM...
SEEMS SHE SWITCHED SCHOOLS BECAUSE HER FATHER WAS TRANSFERRED AT WORK.
SO ANYWAY...
OHHH.. THIS IS AWFUL...
THAT'S ONE LESS TICKET TO THE ALL-HOKKAIDO.
DID YOU KNOW?
I FIGURE THESE THINGS OUT AS I GO ALONG
BUT..
AS IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH...
BAM
LOOK OVER THERE!

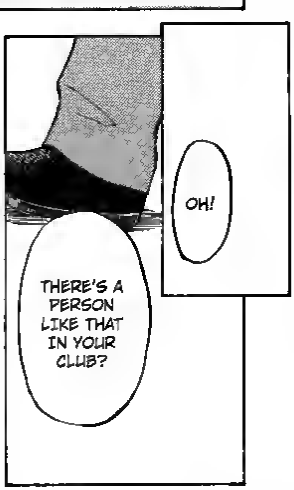
THE "WHITE-FACED GIRL BACK FROM ABROAD"...
... MAI KOUHAN!
KOHAAAN!
コハーン!
THE "PURE-HEARTED TRICKSTER OF NANIWA"...
TA DAH!
...TANEARI MASUMI!!!
"THE NEW THEORIST OF KABUKI-CHO TENNIS"...
... OMIZUNO HANAMI!!
フヒ
ロ～～
PHERO—MOAAAAN!
RUMBLE
AND FINALLY, "THE ACTIVE VOLCANO OF TOHOKU"...
.. FUDOU KYOUKO AND...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
...
IT...
IT CAN'T BE...
.. HER PARTNER, "THE HEAVENLY CHASER"...
.. GOMA SURIKO!!!
COOOONG

HEH HEH HEH... I SEE!
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SO NOW THIS DISTRICT TOURNEY..
...MIGHT AS WELL BE NATIONALS...?
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME NEARLY ALL THE POWERFUL PLAYERS' FAMILIES MOVE AROUND A LOT...?
RUMBLE
PSCHT
JUST HOW FAR OUT TO LUNCH IS YOUR BRAIN?
.. AND WE CAN ENJOY THE SATISFACTION OF BEING NATIONAL CHAMPS!!
THAT'S A REAL BENEFIT!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WIN THE DISTRICT TOURNEY...
AH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST BLIND TO REALITY...?
EXCUSE ME?
YOU TOURNAMENT VIRGIN!
ALREADY SWITCHED INTO DEFEAT MODE, HAVE YOU?
WHAT'S THIS?
GUESS BEING A REGULAR AT THE ALL-HOKKAIDO DOESN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH!

HEY!
YOU WANNA FIGHT, PUNK?!
IT'S ON NOW! ON, I SAY!
WE'LL SETTLE THIS WITH TENNIS!!
WORKS FOR ME! LET'S DO THIS, THEN!!
I'LL TAKE YOU OUT IN A SECOND! ONE SECOND!!
WHO'S RUNNING?!
DON'T TRY TO RUN NOW!!
SAY THAT AGAIN, YOU JERK!

AAH.
I SEE.
AS I RECALL, THERE'S A COURT BESIDE THE SHOP.
I FIGURE IT'LL BE THERE.
...
THEY SAY THEY'RE PLAYING A MATCH.
WHERE EXACTLY DO THEY PLAN TO DO THAT, I WONDER?
...
...

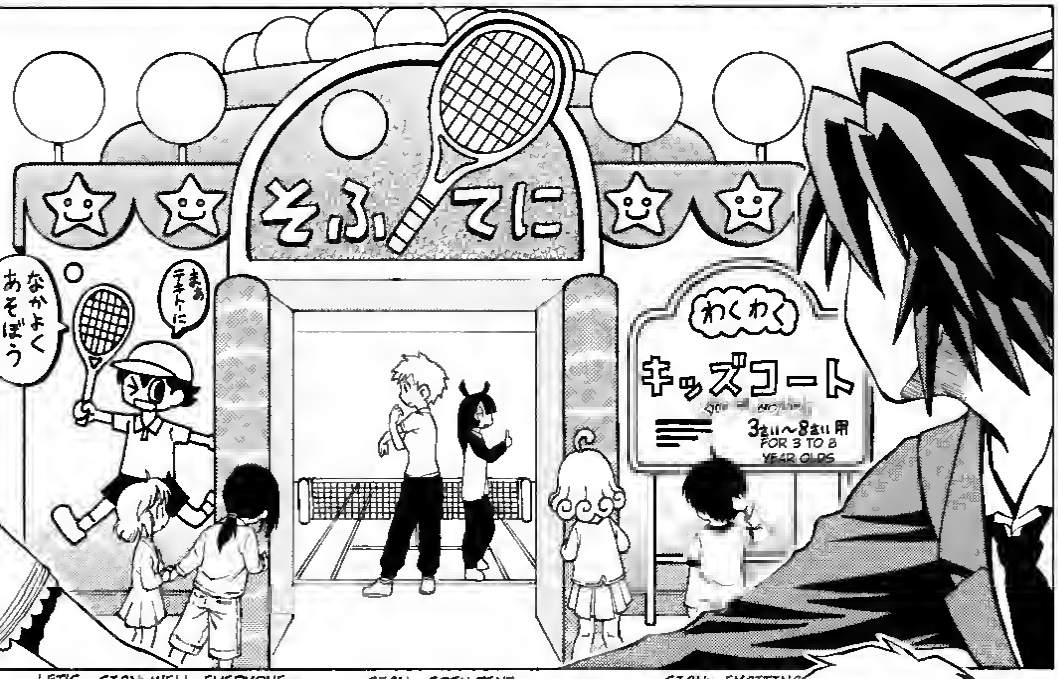

SURE!
I'D LIKE TO GET ALONG WELL AS NEIGHBORS.
INTRODUCE US LATER.
I BET SHE'D GET ALONG GREAT WITH MY SUMINO-SENPAI.
AHA HA!
KOTONE-CHAN'S LIKE THAT, TOO ♪
SHE GETS INTO FIGHTS A BIT QUICKLY THOUGH


OH!
THERE'S A PERSON LIKE THAT IN YOUR CLUB?

第7ゲーム がちんこっ
GAME 7 - EARNEST COMPETITION

SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER...
ASUNA AND FRIENDS WENT TO TOWN TO CHECK OUT THE NEW SOFT TENNIS SPECIALTY SHOP, BUT...!!
HMMM.
I DON'T SEE LEO-KUN'S SENPAI OR MY CLUBMATES.
THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
WELL THEN, SHOULD WE TAKE A QUICK LOOK OUTSIDE?
AH, GOOD POINT.
IF WE HAVEN'T FOUND THEM AFTER LOOKING THIS HARD...
...MAYBE THEY'RE WAITING OUTSIDE THE STORE OR SOMETHING.
SURE
...
AHHH...
ドンッ
AH!
LET'S GO!
WELL...
♪
TUP

SIGN: WORLD'S MOST INEXPENSIVE SOFT TENNIS SHOP



...LET'S PLAY NICE TOGETHER!

SIGN: WELL, EVERYONE...

SIGN: SOFU TENI

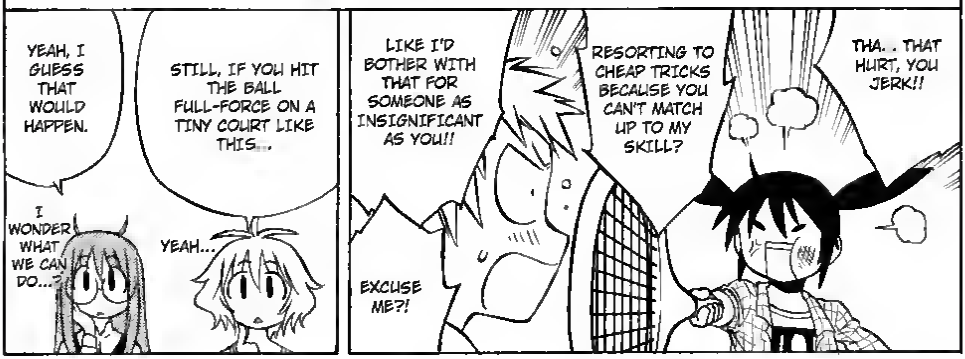
SIGN: EXCITING

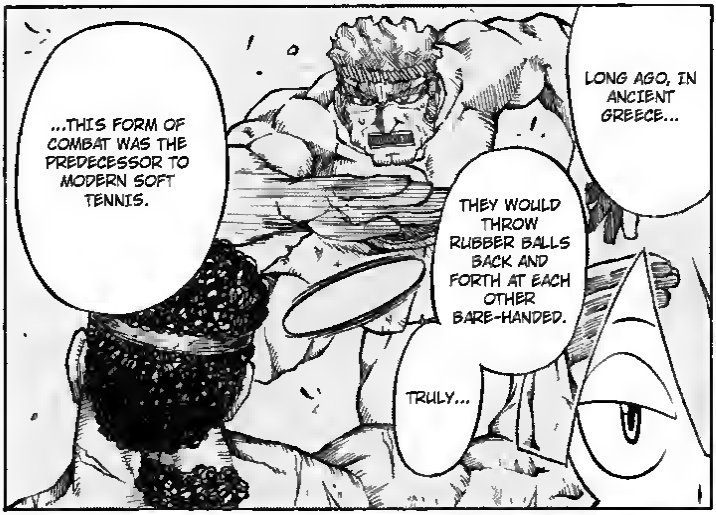
IT'S OVER...
YES...
I HEAR THEM... ALL TOO WELL...
HEY! JUNGLE EMPEROR, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE! HEY!! YOU HEAR ME?
LEO!!
SOMEONE'S CALLING YOU, LEO-KUN.
UM. I THINK THAT'S THEM?
ズーン
DROOP

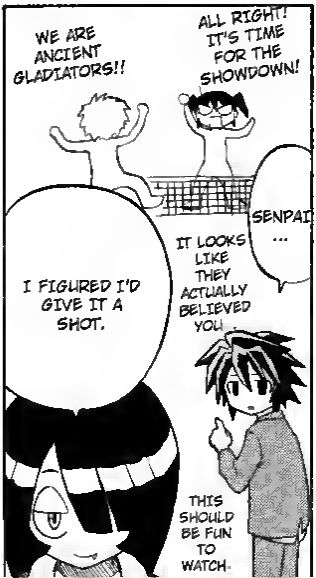
FLOATING AND SINKING
KOTONE-CHAN AND CHITOSE-SAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TUP
EH...?
EH...?
OH, ASUNA.
WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO?
THINGS GOT KINDA HECTIC WHILE YOU WERE GONE.
BEAM
OUR DATE TOGETHER MAY HAVE ENDED...
YEAH, YOU KNOW...
BUT THIS DREAM-LIKE TIME CAN STILL...
I SEE.
THESE ARE ASUNA'S FRIENDS...?
SO THEY ALREADY MET UP WITH MY SENPAI AND ARE GETTING ALONG GREAT.
GOOD-BYE...
...MY SWEET DREAM.
WHA...
THAT SHORT-HAIRED SUMINO GIRL PICKED A FIGHT.
KEPT GOING ON ABOUT HOW I'M ANNOYING.
IN YOUR DREAMS, YOU WACKO. FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED THIS.
HUH

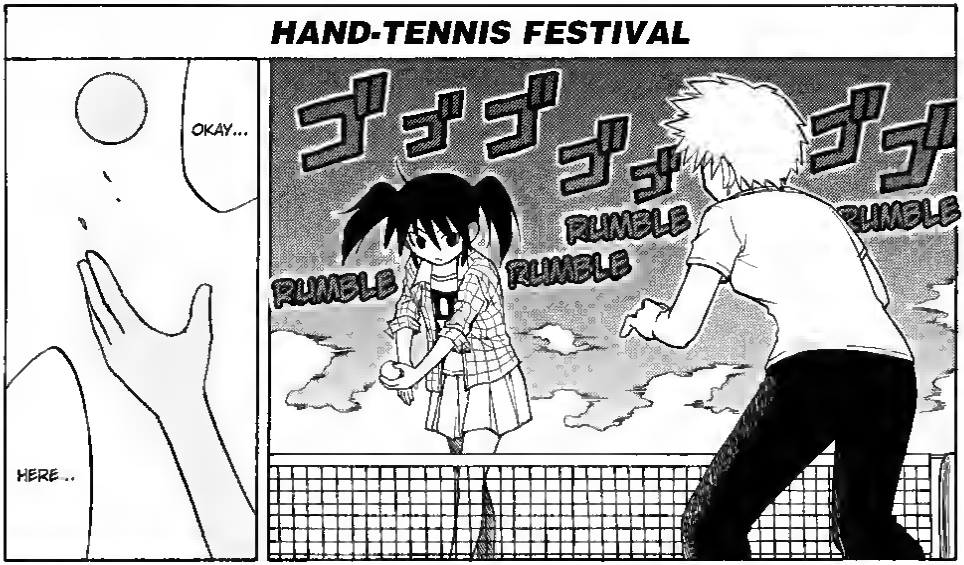
THE BATTLE BEGINS
AS IF!
I HOPE YOU DON'T WET YOUR PANTS WHEN I SHOW YOU THE MIGHT OF THE GREAT SUMINO!!
THAT'S MY LINE!
OKAY.
NOW THEN, IT'S HIGH TIME!
LET'S GET THIS MATCH STARTED!
TOSS!
IF SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER EVEN FACED AN OFFICIAL MATCH..
..HAS SUCH A SWELLED HEAD..
HMPH...
HOW ABOUT YOU JUST APOLOGIZE BEFORE YOU EMBARRASS YOURSELF?
FALL...
KA-WHAM
YTARGH!
OOPS...
BSHT
!!!
HEH!
TOO BAD FOR YOU!
...THEY'RE IN FOR A WORLD OF PAIN!
POK

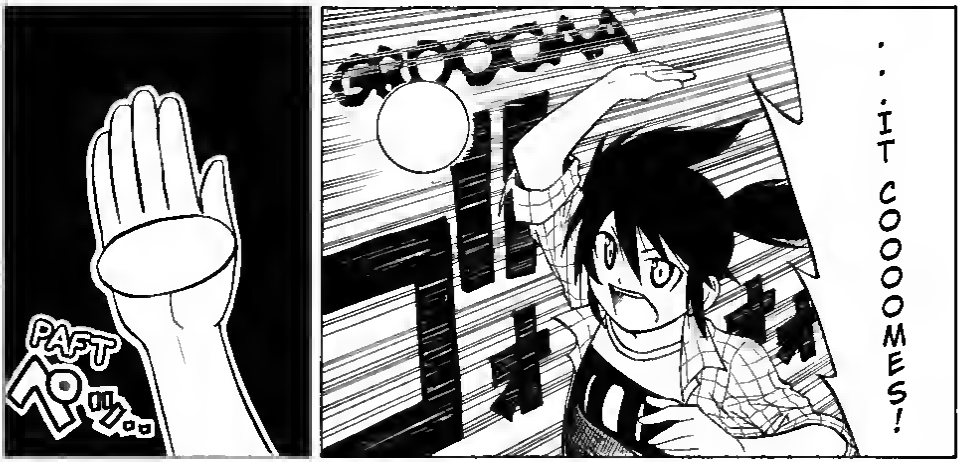
A GRAND PROPOSAL

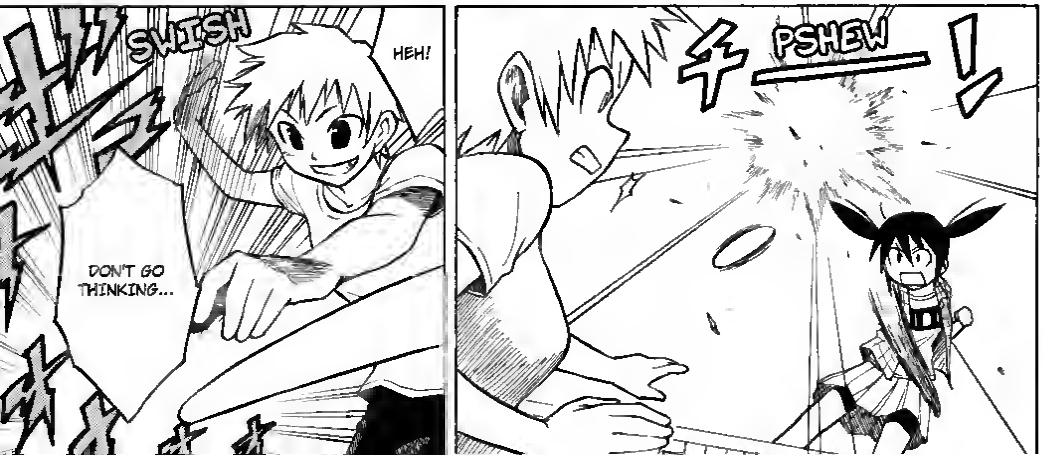

YEAH, I GUESS THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
STILL, IF YOU HIT THE BALL FULL-FORCE ON A TINY COURT LIKE THIS...
I WONDER WHAT WE CAN DO...?
YEAH...
LIKE I'D BOTHER WITH THAT FOR SOMEONE AS INSIGNIFICANT AS YOU!!
RESORTING TO CHEAP TRICKS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T MATCH UP TO MY SKILL?
THA.. THAT HURT, YOU JERK!!
EXCUSE ME?!

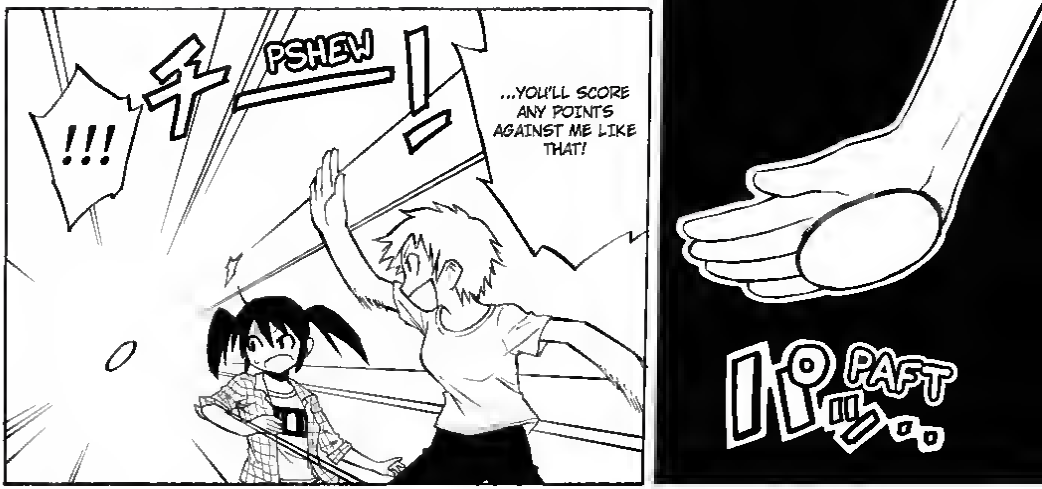

LONG AGO, IN ANCIENT GREECE...
THEY WOULD THROW RUBBER BALLS BACK AND FORTH AT EACH OTHER BARE-HANDED.
TRULY...
...THIS FORM OF COMBAT WAS THE PREDECESSOR TO MODERN SOFT TENNIS.

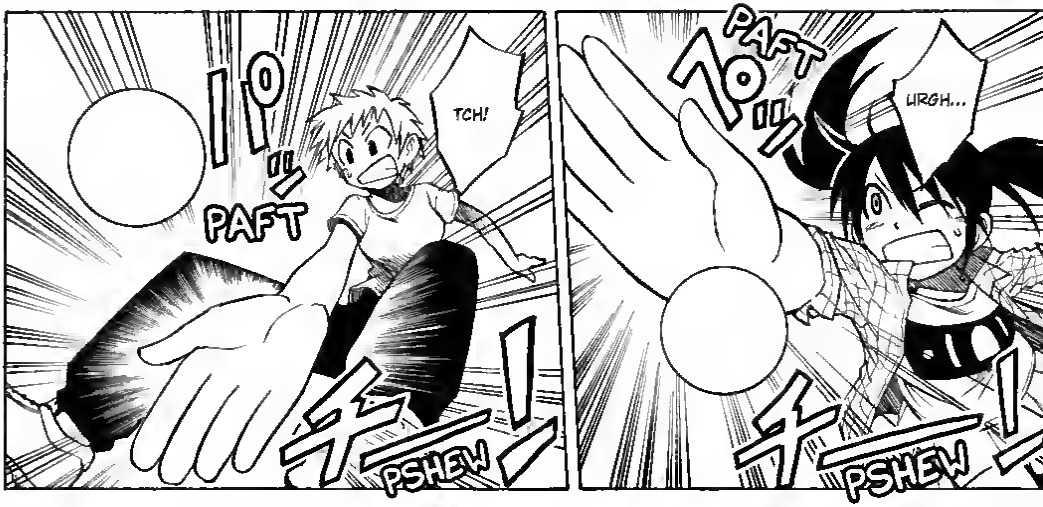

WE ARE ANCIENT GLADIATORS!!
ALL RIGHT! IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOWDOWN!
SENPAI ...
I FIGURED I'D GIVE IT A SHOT.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ACTUALLY BELIEVED YOU.
THIS SHOULD BE FUN TO WATCH-

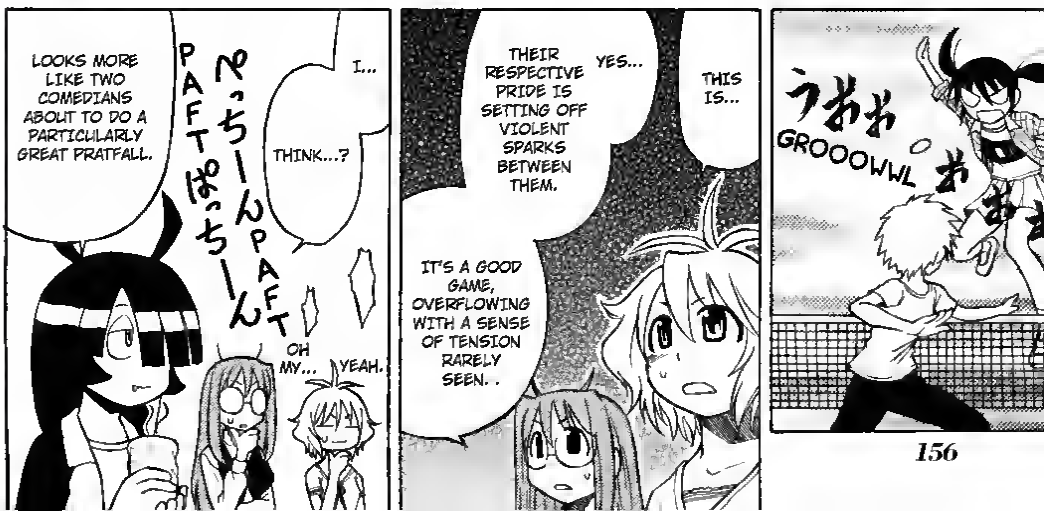

HAND-TENNIS FESTIVAL
OKAY...
HERE..
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


PAFT
パッ..
GROOOAN
...IT COOOOMES!

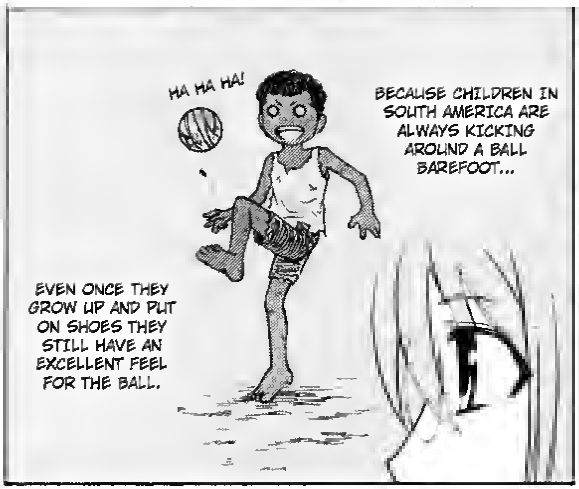

SWISH
HEH!
DON'T GO THINKING...
PSHEW

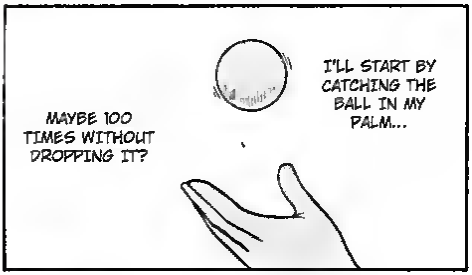

!!!
PSHEW
...YOU'LL SCORE ANY POINTS AGAINST ME LIKE THAT!
PAFT

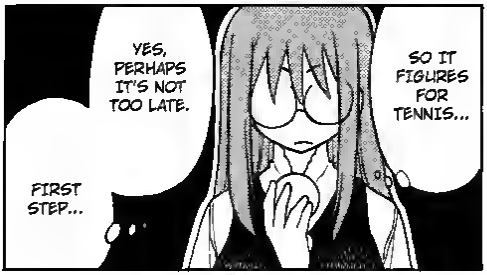

TCH!
PAFT
PSHEW
URGH...
PAFT
PSHEW

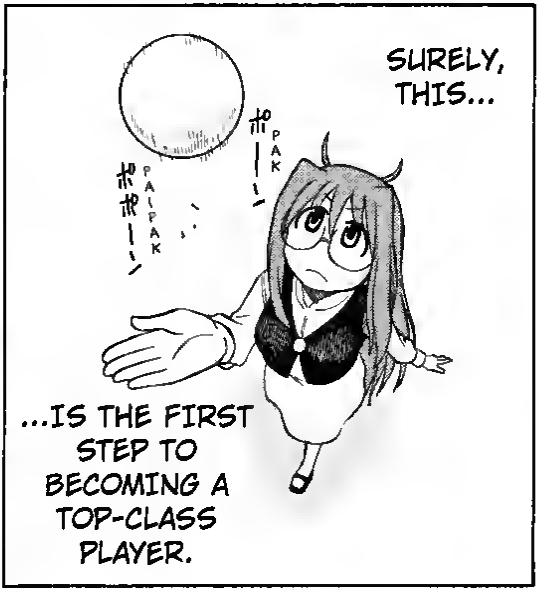

LOOKS MORE LIKE TWO COMEDIANS ABOUT TO DO A PARTICULARLY GREAT PRATFALL.
I... THINK...?
ぺっちーんPAFT PAFTぱっちーん
OH MY...
YEAH.
THEIR RESPECTIVE PRIDE IS SETTING OFF VIOLENT SPARKS BETWEEN THEM.
YES...
THIS IS...
IT'S A GOOD GAME, OVERFLOWING WITH A SENSE OF TENSION RARELY SEEN. .
うおお
GROOOWL
おお

TEACHINGS FROM SOUTH AMERICA


HA HA HA!
BECAUSE CHILDREN IN SOUTH AMERICA ARE ALWAYS KICKING AROUND A BALL BAREFOOT...
EVEN ONCE THEY GROW UP AND PUT ON SHOES THEY STILL HAVE AN EXCELLENT FEEL FOR THE BALL.







TIME TO DECIDE
OH...
UM...
OH... OH NO!!
I COULDN'T REALLY TELL EITHER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
UMPIRE!!!
WHICH IS IT?!
JUMP
HEY!!
DON'T BE STUPID!!
IT WAS JUST BARELY ON THE LINE.
THAT ONE WAS TOTALLY OUT, WASN'T IT?!
WHAT WAS THAT, YOU--?!
THE
I COULD DECIDE THAT, IS THERE...?
THERE'S NO WAY...
...AND IF I SAY IT'S OUT, I'LL INDIRECTLY BE HURTING THE GIRL I LOVE.
IF I SAY IT'S IN, I'LL HURT THE SENPAI I RESPECT...
DROOP
GIVEN THE SITUATION ...
NNGGH!
IF YOU ASK ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM...
SNIFFLE
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT...?
...?
...TO KEEP SMILING FOREVER!!!
AFTER ALL, I WANT BOTH OF YOU...

SOMETHING IN COMMON
YO!
SUMINO-STYLE CHARMING SKILL...
SECRET KAISER #7!!!
AHEE!"
KOTONE-STYLE SPECIAL ATTACK...
DANCING SPICY Z!!!
...FOR THEIR SPECIAL ATTACKS.
LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD.
THAT'S NOTHING!! CRAZY BLOCKING KNIGHT!!
TAKE THIS!! GALACTICA EXERCISE!!!
THEIR LAME-O NAME SENSE ..
THEIR WINNING SPIRITS, THEIR AGGRESSIVE, ROUGH PLAY-STYLES...
AND ESPECIALLY ...
YEAH. THEY'RE EXACTLY ALIKE.
SERIHA-CHAN ..
THESE TWO SEEM ..

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HMPH..
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD, HUH...
WHEEZE
ぜぇー
I NEVER DREAMED..
...THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD KEEP UP WITH MY GAME..
ぜぇー
GASP
YOU... YOU TOO...
IT LOOKS LIKE...
HAHH
はぁ
...YOU'RE NOT ALL TALK AFTER ALL..
HAHH
はぁ
HEH
HEH
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE TAKING IT EASY!!!
YOU... YOU TWO...

!!!
?
BADUM
LEO...?!
I WILL PERFORM A MASSAGE!!!
LIE DOWN, QUICKLY.
TA-
DAH!
A MASSAGE AFTER EXERCISE HELPS EASE MUSCLE FATIGUE
I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU, AREN'T I?
PLUS...
NO... NEVER YOU MIND, LEO!
WAH!
I'LL DO SUMINO-SENPAI FIRST...
I'M FINE FOR TODAY.
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!
I'M SERIOUS!
NOW, QUICKLY
HAHH
WAI...!
EVEN SO THAT DOESN'T MEAN
..YOU SHOULD DO IT... WHILE PEOPLE ARE WATCHING ...
AHH
STO...
...
ANH!
IT'S TIED TO THE PREVENTION OF INJURY!!
UNLH
SHIVER
SQUISH

IT'S HOW WE ALWAYS STAY IN PEAK CONDITION.
BECAUSE THAT'S ONE OF THE PREREQUISITES FOR BEING A COMPETITIVE SCHOOL.
I...
I SEE...

AH!
STO--!
HAAH!
NGH!
..KKH!
STOP...
AH!
THIS IS WHY...
...WE SCOUTED LEO TO BE OUR MANAGER.
HEH HEH...
AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
...

...HCK!

LEO'S A MEMBER OF A LONG FAMILY LINE...
...OF FAMOUS CHIROPRACTORS.
LEO IN PARTICULAR...
...IS ONE OF THE RARE MEMBERS IN THEIR HISTORY...

PHEW...
...

...THEY SAY HE HAS THE FINGERS OF GOD.
...WHO IS SUCH AN INCREDIBLE PRODIGY...
OOO
OOH!!
あああ
あああ

びくっ
YEEP!
!!
NOW THEN...
MOVING ON.
...
SCUFF

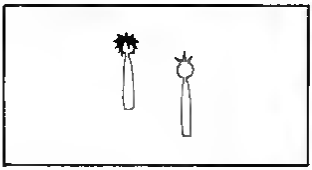
GOOO
OONG

I'LL DO YOU.
NEXT...

NOOOOOO...

NO... THIS IS NOTHING...
ASUNA-SAN...
THAT WAS AMAZING LEO-KUN!!
WOW... WOW!
EH?
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

...

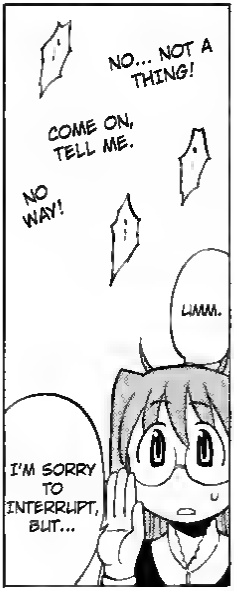


HE HAS NO IDEA OF HIS TRUE POWER.
AH. UH HUH.
WELL, Y'KNOW
BOOONG

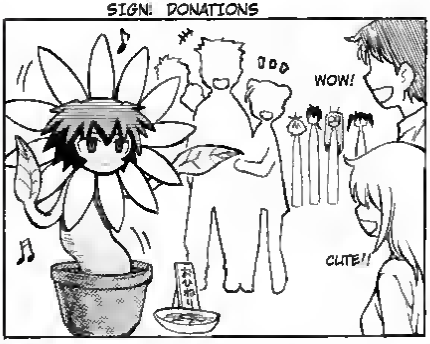
THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO END UP EVEN MORE TIRED AFTER THE MASSAGE
THIS IS JUST MY WAY OF SHOWING MY GRATITUDE TO THE UPPERCLASSMEN WHO TOOK ME IN
BUT FOR SOME REASON...
I STILL LACK EXPERIENCE ...

ガアアア
VROOOOM
OH.
YOU MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS?
THAT'S NICE

YE H! COME NY TIME.
ASUNA-SAAAAN!
WE'LL COME PLAY AGAIN SOME TIME.


NO... NOT A THING!
COME ON, TELL ME.
NO WAY!
UMM.
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
WHOA! I... IDIOT!!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
♪
AND AS FOR KOTONE HERE...
HUH?
A GUY OTHER THAN ME DID WHAT?
SHE HAD A GUY OTHER THAN YOU ALL OVER HER...


SIGN: DONATIONS
WOW!
CUTE!!

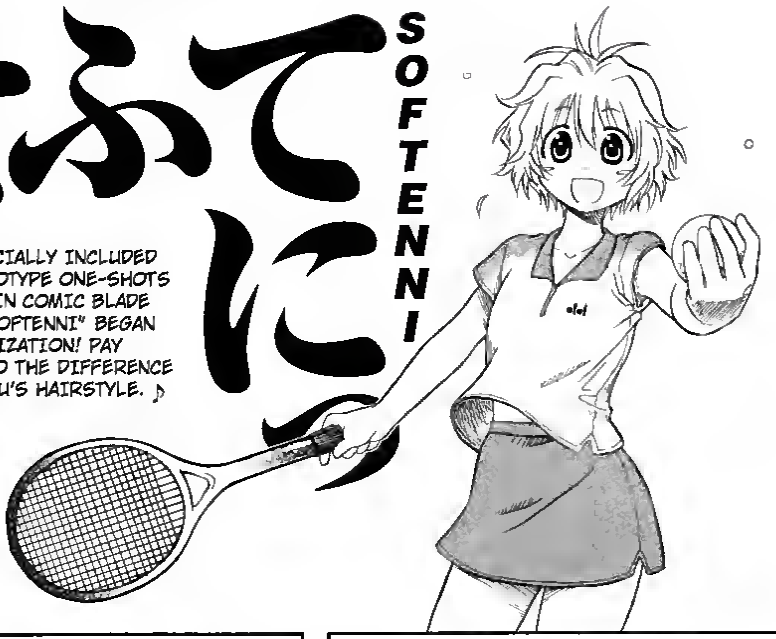
OH NO! WE FORGOT KURUSU!!
HUH ...?
ACK!
DON'T WE... SEEM TO BE MISSING SOMETHING?
WE BETTER GO BACK QUICK!!

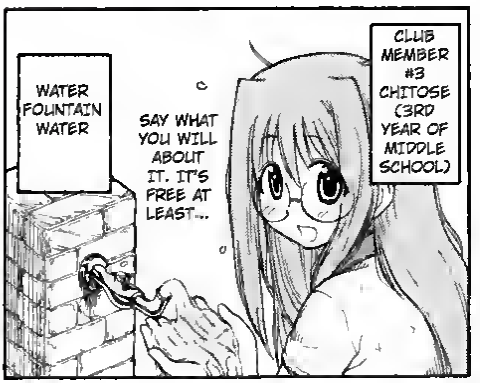
そふてにっ 1 おわり

読切版 ONE-SHOT EDITION

そふてに SOFTENNI

WE'VE SPECIALLY INCLUDED THESE PROTOTYPE ONE-SHOTS THAT RAN IN COMIC BLADE BEFORE "SOFTENNI" BEGAN SERIALIZATION! PAY ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE IN KURUSU'S HAIRSTYLE. ♪



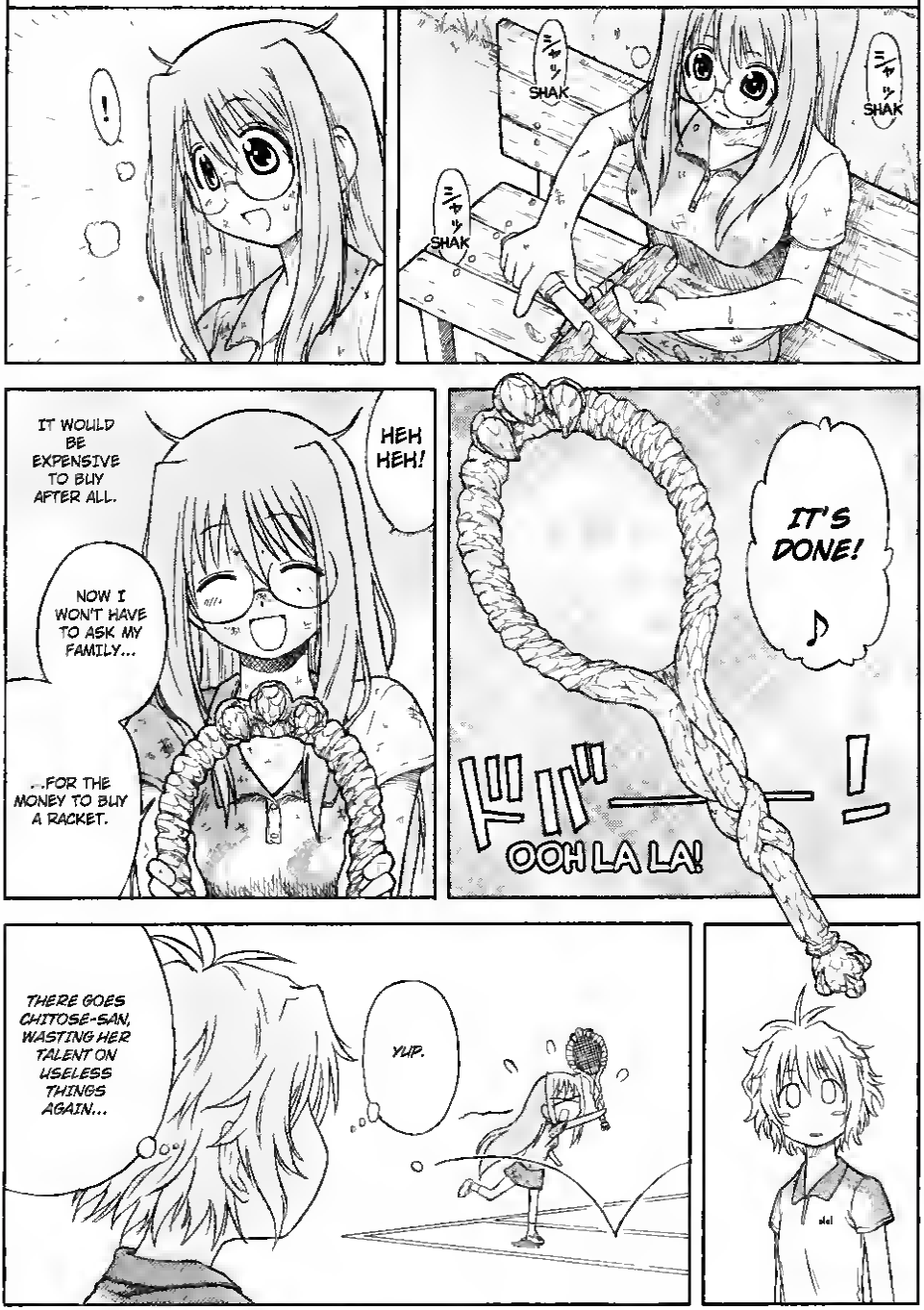


CARTON STRAWBERRY MILK

CAN: WHOLE TOMATOES

THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS

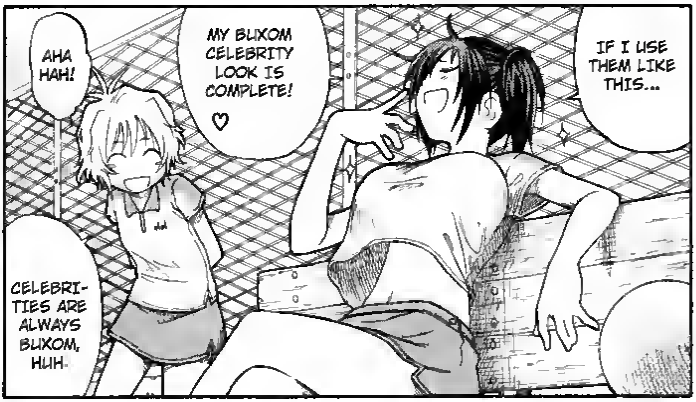
A SKILLED CRAFTSWOMAN



THE MOMENT YOU GIVE UP IT'S...
!!
WHISHT
BOP
THERE!
!
...

RUBBER AND BOOBS
HEH HEH, AWESOME ISN'T IT?
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHOA!
THEY'RE HUGE!!

WELL, OF COURSE...

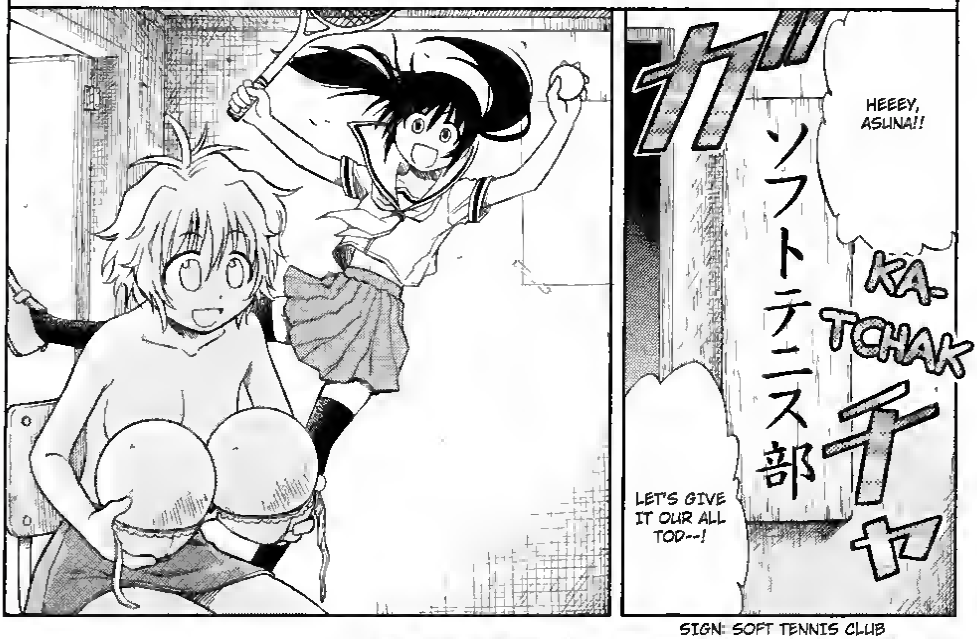

AHA HAH!
MY BUXOM CELEBRITY LOOK IS COMPLETE!
♡
IF I USE THEM LIKE THIS...
CELEBRITIES ARE ALWAYS BUXOM, HUH.

I WAS TOLD TO COME HOME EARLY TODAY.
SO LONG...
OH NO, I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.
HEY, ASU...

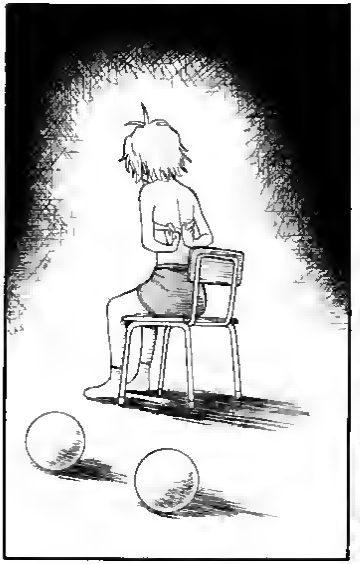
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM

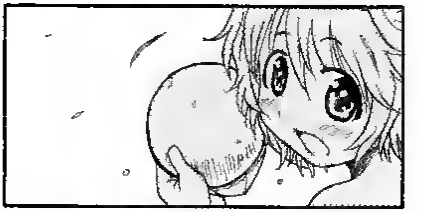
THE TRUTH SHE ARRIVED AT
WHA...
WHAT IS IT...?
...
NOT QUITE RIGHT.
EEEK...
!!!
ばっ
SWOOSH
OW OW OW ...
EEEEEEEK!
THEN IT MUST BE...
NOT RIGHT EITHER.
THE ONE WHO KEEPS DRAWING A CROWD!
FINALLY I'VE FOUND HER...
MURMUR
MURMUR
UNDER-SKIRT SHE PICKED UP IN THE CLUB ROOM.
THAT'S WHAT WE WEAR THESE UNDER-SKIRTS FOR, AFTER ALL.
...
IF I WORRY ABOUT PEOPLE'S EYES ON ME, I START TO FREEZE UP.
I SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE BIGGER MOVEMENTS
OOOOH.

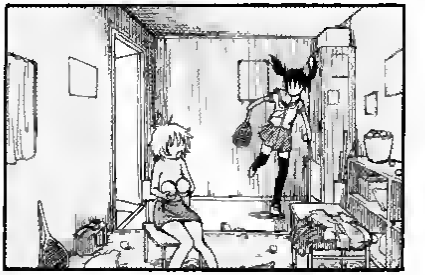
LOVE AND KINDNESS AND PAIN...



SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB







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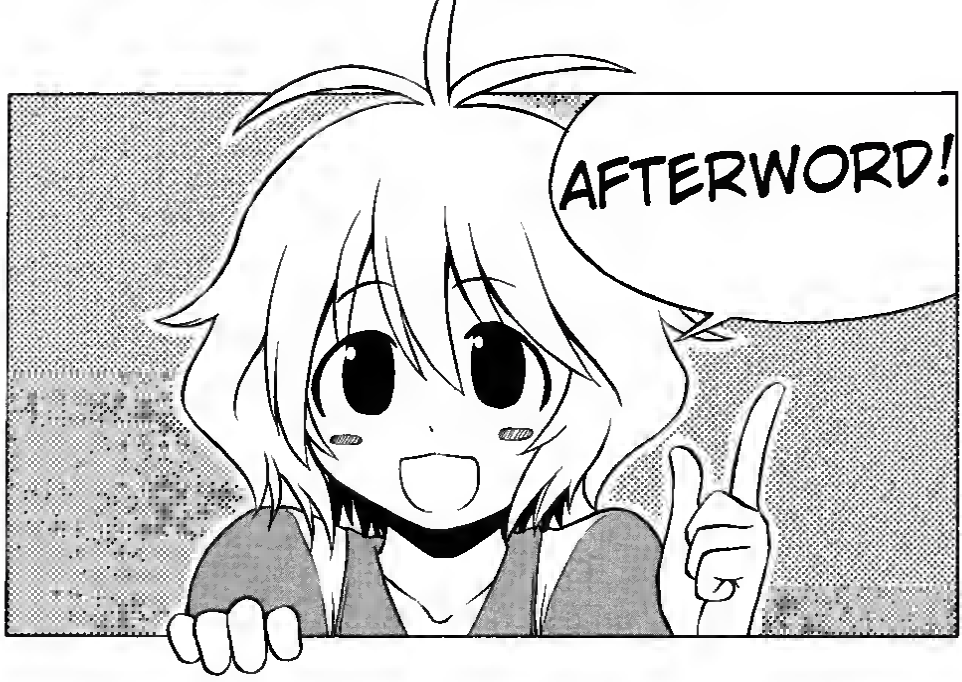

A PLEASURE TO BE MEETING YOU ALL FOR THE FIRST TIME. I AM AZUCHI RYOU.

I AM VERY THANKFUL TO YOU WHO ARE NOW HOLDING THIS VOLUME OF "SOFTENNI"

REALLY, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SO LONG TO FINALLY HAVE MY FIRST VOLUME PUBLISHED.

WAO

FOR ME, I FELT I WAS REALLY PUSHING MY LIMITS DURING THE SERIALIZATION SO I'VE BEEN THINKING GOD IS SURPRISINGLY KIND.

NICE WORK, GOD.

BUT WOW, IT WAS REALLY HARD WORK TO COME THIS FAR.

AFTER I LEFT HOKKAIDO I WAS CONSTANTLY GETTING FIRED FROM ASSISTANT POSITIONS.

UNABLE TO TELL MY PARENTS I FED MYSELF WITH PART-TIME WORK DURING THE DAY...

I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER IT

BETWEEN THIS AND THAT 5 YEARS PASSED. BUT WITH THE SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, ROOMMATES, FRIENDS AND EDITORS AT WORK AS WELL AS COUNTLESS OTHER PEOPLE I MANAGED TO COME THIS FAR WITHOUT FORGETTING MY DREAM. THANKS TO THEM I CAN DREAM A LITTLE LONGER. FOR NOW I'M GOING TO FOCUS ON GETTING OUT VOLUME 2!

I'LL DO IT! I WILL!!

I'LL TRY MY HARDEST TO PRODUCE SOMETHING INTERESTING THAT WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY ALL YOU READERS, SO KEEP ON SUPPORTING "SOFTENNI"!!

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR VIEWS AND OPINIONS!!

POKE